

# *International Bank Note Society Journal*



**"The Early Bank Notes of Guinée  
(Guinea-Conakry): Independence to 1972" ...page 6**

**Volume 41, No. 3, 2002**

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# I.B.N.S. Journal

Volume 41, No. 3, 2002

Editor, Steve Feller

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## President's Message

Fellow members,

Greetings. I hope all of you have had a good year, so far, numismatic wise, and continue to do so.



I returned from London recently where we held an executive board meeting on the 5th of October. It was with deep regret and sadness that the board accepted the resignation of Pam West as the assistant advertising manager. The board expressed its appreciation for all her fine work, in this position and as a director and former vice president. Thank you Pam. You will be missed. Now, we need a replacement. We need a volunteer to take over this position, preferably some member in the U.K. If there is anyone out there willing to take over this position, please advise the undersigned.

At the board meeting, we have established the appointed position of, for lack of another term, "Website Czar." This officer will be responsible for determining what, when, and where anything would be entered on the I.B.N.S. Website. I have temporarily accepted this responsibility. However, we need someone to volunteer for this position.

Is there anyone out there? We would prefer that this person have email.

In regard to the website, we are starting a new section. "Frequently Asked Questions." Some will be for the general public and others for members only. If you have any questions of general and/or specific subject that we feel that you, and/or others would like to have in this section, please send them on to me and I will take care of it.

I want to thank Rachel Feller, who is attending university in London, for taking time from her busy schedule, to attend this board meeting.

I guess that's all for this time. Wait. I have been promised that the *I.B.N.S. Directory* will be out by the first of January, 2003.

Till next time, best wishes to all.

Bob



## Editor's Column



A few weeks ago I met three fellow I.B.N.S. enthusiasts at the first conference on World War II POWs held in the United States.

The meeting was in Muscatine, Iowa, site of a subcamp of Camp Algona. Fleming Lyngbeck Hansen, Fred Schwan, Marv Mericle, and I were joined there by perhaps four-dozen others from a variety of backgrounds. A few ex POWs were there as well. We learned much in just a few days. We learned about an archeological dig at the site of Camp Hearn, Texas by students and faculty at a nearby university, we learned of a POW museum at Aliceville, Alabama, we learned about the depiction of POWs in movies, we learned about the treatment of POWs in several countries besides the United States, and we learned much more. Of course, the other conference participants learned about POW scrip used in this country and others. Besides talks movies were shown and a most impressive exhibition was opened at the Muscatine Art Center on POWs in the American Midwest. This exhibition will be open through January 5, 2003 and then it will travel throughout the Midwest part of America. More information on the exhibition and the conference may be found at: [www.eicc.edu/mcc/pows](http://www.eicc.edu/mcc/pows), [www.traces.org](http://www.traces.org), and [www.muscatineartcenter.org](http://www.muscatineartcenter.org). Apparently, there is a small community of scholars and others who study this topic. The History Channel has produced a video on the topic of US POW camps starring several people at the conference. Plans are already afoot to hold a second conference in a few years.

Best,  
Steve Feller, Editor

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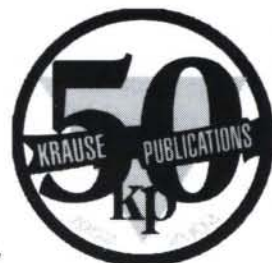
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Certain members have expressed a disquiet about the references to former European Librarian (Michael Turner) and former European Secretary (Sally Thowney) in the "President's message" letter in *Journal* 40/2. The I.B.N.S. recognizes that within that letter President Crapanzano expressed a personal view that need not necessarily express the views of I.B.N.S. as a whole, but what he deemed appropriate. As regards Mr. Turner being "removed from this office" (European Librarian) it should be pointed out that he sent a letter of resignation from his appointed positions approximately two years earlier, and only recently has Ermelindo Giulianini been appointed. Consequently many of the "inefficiencies" attributed by Mr. Crapanzano to Mr. Turner may have been caused by *The Journal* having continued, long after his resignation, to list him as European Librarian on the Society Officers Page. As regards to Sally Thowney the I.B.N.S. recognizes that she was not responsible for all problems relating to members not receiving membership cards, I.B.N.S. publications or renewal notices and will try to improve this aspect of benefit which members get. The I.B.N.S. apologizes to the membership, Mr. Turner and to Mrs. Thowney for any inconvenience, embarrassment or offence this may have caused.

## Letters to the Editor

### Dear Editor,

Everyone probably has a favorite bank note or two, I would like to ask the I.B.N.S. members to let me know their 10 favorite most beautiful notes in an attempt to establish a data base for getting a consensus on the "Top 10 Most Beautiful Notes." This may be the start of making many "TOP 10" lists (e.g., TOP 10 Most Wanted Notes, TOP 10 Highest Denomination Notes, etc.) that different members may wish to undertake. I believe this approach to making Top 10 lists is popular in many other areas, and would help the hobby among the general public if it can make its way to the general media (magazines, etc.).

I found that coming up with a TOP 10 list is not as easy as it may seem at first. In any event, here is my "nominations" for the TOP 10 Most Beautiful Notes, listed in order from 1 to 10:

- Bhutan Ingultrum (1981) P.5
- Costa Rica 5 colones 1968-92 P.36
- Sri Lanka 2 rupees 1979 P.83
- United States 1 dollar 1896 P.335
- Russia 500 rubles 1898-1912 P.6
- Lebanon 100 livres 1964-88 P.66
- Yugoslavia 1000 dinara 1935 P.33
- Cambodia 500 riels (1970) P.14
- Netherlands 25 gulden 1989 P.100
- Brazil 500 cruzeiros 1972 P.169

I would like to ask members who are interested in submitting their lists to send it to me by mail, fax, or e-mail. I will prepare a short article with results for the first 2003 *Journal* issue.

Thanks you,

Mohamad Hussein. I.B.N.S. # 6666  
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### Dear Editor,

For your information, the Minister of Finance has issued the following press statement:

#### New Governor of Reserve Bank

The Secretary to the Treasury, Dr Alan Bollard, is to be appointed the next Reserve Bank Governor, Finance Minister Michael Cullen announced today.

Dr Bollard was nominated by the non-executive directors of the Reserve Bank Board and the nomination has been accepted by the government.

"Although I am obviously very pleased that the Board has chosen someone of such high ability, it was with mixed feelings that I accepted their recommendation because it means I will lose Dr Bollard as Secretary to the Treasury," Dr Cullen said.

"He has been enormously successful in changing the culture of the Treasury into a more open and outward looking organisation and was always a pleasure to work with."

Confirmation of Dr Bollard's appointment will be subject to the conclusion of a contract of employment and to the negotiation of a new Policy Targets Agreement. The government wants monetary policy outcomes to move closer to those of Australia.

"I am confident Dr Bollard and I will be able to negotiate a PTA which is satisfactory to each of us and to the broader financial and business community and which will serve New Zealand well," Dr Cullen said.

Dr Bollard was appointed as Secretary to the Treasury in February, 1998. He was Chairman of the New Zealand Commerce Commission from 1994 and before that, was Director of the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research — a position he held for seven years.

He has also worked as an economist in a variety of positions in Britain and the South Pacific.

Scott de Young, I.B.N.S. #5173



## Dear Editor,

I thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Outings article "Beyond Rarity" (early bank notes), most of which I knew very little about. But then again I also enjoyed the Philippine article and also the US article. I've been involved in bank notes for many years now, but freely admit I even learned a few new things from the U.S. article. I have *Journals* back to 1978. I recommend these past journals, available from the library, to all members. They won't all be everybodys cup of tea but interest and taste does ofcourse vary.

I read some fantastic chapters in the book *Collecting Paper Money* by Mr. Ken Lake (published 1975) that concerned some of the most famous early collectors and collections. I would be very interested to have any members' contribution for a paper on this particular element of the hobby, including the full range of possible sources. etc. etc. I would include collections formed in the 1980s and also 1990s. And why not your own personal recollections?! Particularly about specific notes, probably their prices, and areas of general strength and weakness. I would narrow this down to just Scottish bank note collections, British Commonwealth collections and/or general world collections.

Richard Dennett I.B.N.S. #4538  
66 StBenedicts Street  
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NR2 4AR  
UK

## Dear Editor,

I am contacting you by e-mail and by post in the hope you or a member of I.B.N.S. can advise me in finding a buyer for my Kampf Guilloche Machine "A" Supra 111 ( Geometric Lathe) for engraving complicated master bank note patterns. The machine weighs 2 tons and is 3 1/2 feet wide 5

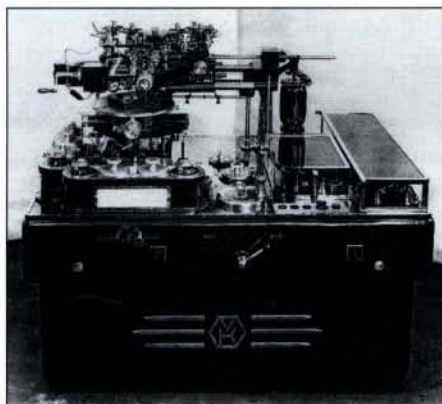
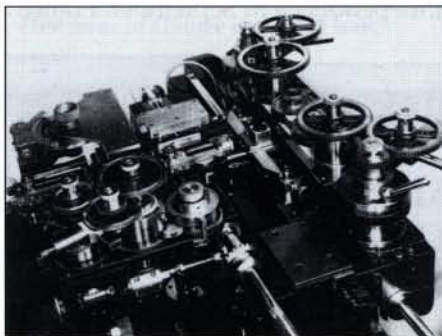
1/2 feet long and 5 feet high. There is also a steel cupboard containing tools and some 150 gears. I think the machine with cupboard is worth £5000 but I would be open to offers.

Yours sincerely,

Derek C.K.Pearce  
"Hurghada"  
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e-mail is derek.pearce.@totalise.uk

PS: I enclose photographs of the machine copied from the instruction book plus a photograph of the actual steel cupboard.



The convention is to be held at the Artarmon Motor Inn, 472 Pacific Highway, Artarmon NSW 2064, on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd of November 2002. The convention is open from 9.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. on Saturday and 9.30 am to 4.30 pm on Sunday. It includes a series of talks, lectures, exhibits, displays and a question & answer session. An auction will be held, as well as a bank note quiz to test your knowledge with prizes. For the last two hours of each day there is a buy, swap and sell session (trading tables are available for participating I.B.N.S. members) but of course anyone can attend to add to their collection or sell their duplicates.

## Dear Editor,

This year the Sydney Chapter of the I.B.N.S. is hosting the annual bank note extravaganza in Australia. This follows last year's success in Melbourne (refer *I.B.N.S. Journal* report by Joe Boling)

*continued on page 12*



# The Early Bank Notes of Guinée (Guinea-Conakry): Independence to 1972

by Dan Bellan, I.B.N.S. #7931

Situated on the West Coast of Africa at approximately 13°W and 10°N is the Guinea Republic — a country sometimes called Guinea-Conakry to distinguish it from its neighbour Guinea-Bissau. Once a part of the great Mali Empire, this wet and fertile region eventually succumbed to French colonial expansionism and became a part of French West Africa. In the late 1890s and early 1900s, France negotiated the present day boundaries of Guinea with England and Portugal, who controlled the surrounding areas, which eventually

became Sierra Leone, the Guinea-Bissau and Liberia. After World War II, several labor parties were established, including the Parti Democratique de Guinée led by Ahmed Sekou Toure. Aided by reforms within the French administration, Toure's growing popularity and political savvy gave rise to a new sense of nationalism among many Guineans. In 1958, the PDG party organized support to vote against de Gaulle's proposed French community and then declared independence in September. France

viewed this secession as a highly unfavorable event and promptly cut all financial aid and other assistance programs immediately after the independence of Guinea. Shunned by other Western nations, Guinea began a slow process of political evolution in relative isolation. A probable comparison could be made to the isolationist policies of 19th century Albania under Enver Hoxha, as Guinea under the Toure government refused any assistance from abroad under "a determined to go it alone philosophy." Sekou Toure



First issue of Guinée notes, 50 francs



First issue of Guinée notes, 100 francs





First issue of Guinée notes, 500 francs

governed a one-party state and progressively developed strong dictatorial tendencies. He survived several attempted coups and continued to rule Guinea until his death in 1984.

Shortly after the pronouncement of the new Guinea Republic, a new series of bank notes was introduced. The currency introduced was the Guinean franc. The Banque Centrale République de Guinée, or BCRG, was established in March of 1960 to facilitate the new economic realities. The bank notes depicted the image of Sékou Toure on the face with different cultural and economic

scenes on the back. The bank notes were artistically impressive, both by design and size. Denominations issued were 50, 100, 500, 1000, 5000 and 10000 Guinean francs. The face of each bank note had the date of independence noted, 2 October 1958, and were issued into circulation on March 1, 1960. They remained in circulation until a new series was introduced in March 1963.

The first series of these impressive bank notes were designed and printed in Prague by Statni Tiskarna Cenin (STC Praha), the state printing works of Czechoslovakia. I

believe STC Praha was at its peak of bank note design and lithographic printing in early 1960 — other similar STC workmanship could be seen on the first issue of bank notes from Mali and the bank notes of Castro's Cuba from 1961 to 1990. These lithographed bank notes lacked any security features and were at risk of counterfeit and it was for this very reason that a new issue was introduced three years later in 1963. This time the printer was Thomas De La Rue, and the bank notes included more colors, engraved embossing, and security features which would have made



First issue of Guinée notes, 1,000 francs





First issue of Guinée notes, 5000 francs

counterfeit more difficult. The Guinean Franc replaced the CFA franc on March 1, 1960 at the official exchange rate of 247 Guinean francs to 1 US dollar. This official exchange rate remained until October 2, 1972 when the franc was replaced with the Guinean syli. The new exchange rate was 22.7 Guinean sylis to one US dollar.

Typically, the first and second series of Guinean bank notes usually have some browning or yellowing visible in the fabric of the note. This discoloration is sometimes referred to as 'foxing' or 'tropical discoloration.' Understandably, this condition is most prevalent in wet tropical climates. One of the wettest cities on the planet, Conakry averages 170 inches rainfall per year. The tropical climate with all the moisture in the air permeates everything and this especially includes paper and fabric. This ambient moisture will discolor the bleached linen and cotton fibers

over time leaving the bank note looking stained which adds to the difficulty in finding these bank notes in pristine uncirculated condition. The 500, 5000 and 10000 francs notes from the first series are especially difficult to find in true uncirculated condition, which makes them very rare.

Signatories on the first series of bank notes were the finance minister Alioune Drame and the minister of the economy, Louis Lansana Beavogui.

Alioune Drame, a tax inspector, served under Sekou Toure as minister of finance, minister of planning, ambassador to the Ivory Coast and as an inspector of administrative affairs. Arrested in Conakry in 1976 at 55 years, Drame presumably died in detention without a trial.

Louis Lansana Beavogui, in 1956 along with Sekou Toure was elected to the French National Assembly from Guinea. Upon independence he was made minister for economic

affairs and planning. Beavogui became prime minister in 1972 and served as an interim president in 1984.

Signatories on the second series of bank notes were the director general Ousmane Balde and the minister Moussa Diakite.

Ousmane Balde was an economist and the president of the BCRG and a long time minister of finance. He was arrested in December 1970 and charged with participation in the Portuguese invasion. Balde was sentenced without trial and hanged on January 25, 1971.

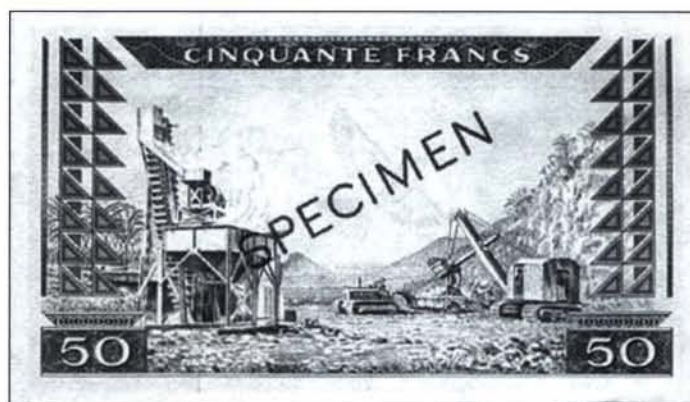
Moussa Diakite served as minister of banking, security and internal affairs, finance and housing. Diakite was arrested April 3, 1984, one week after Toure's death, and executed in Kindia in July 1985.

The 1960 issue of 50 Guinean francs is brown/violet on a dull green underprint. Back is a unique tribal bronze mask. 4.625 inches by 3 inches.



First issue of Guinée notes, 10,000 francs





Second issue of Guinée notes, 50 francs



Second issue of Guinée notes, 100 francs

The 1960 issue of 100 Guinean francs is lilac/plum on a green underprint. Back is lilac in color and has an image of a Peul woman with an ornate coiffure carrying a baby. Village huts are in the background. It is 5.25 inches by 3.25 inches.

The 1960 issue of 500 Guinean francs is red/orange on a light blue underprint. Back is red in color and has a great image of a pineapple

plantation. It is 5.5 inches by 3.5 inches.

The 1960 issue of 1000 Guinean francs is blue on a peach and a green underprint. Back is blue with a man looking at a shoreline with boats. It is 7.5 inches by 4 inches.

The 1960 issue of 5000 Guinean francs is green on orange/pink underprint. Back is green and depicts a group of men working in a

banana plantation. It is 8.375 inches by 4.625 inches.

The 1960 issue of 10000 Guinean francs is brown with light orange and a green underprint. Back is brown and shows a scene of open pit bauxite mining in the Fria region. It is 9 inches by 5 inches.

The 1963 issue of 50 Guinean francs is brown with a pink and blue underprint. Back is brown on

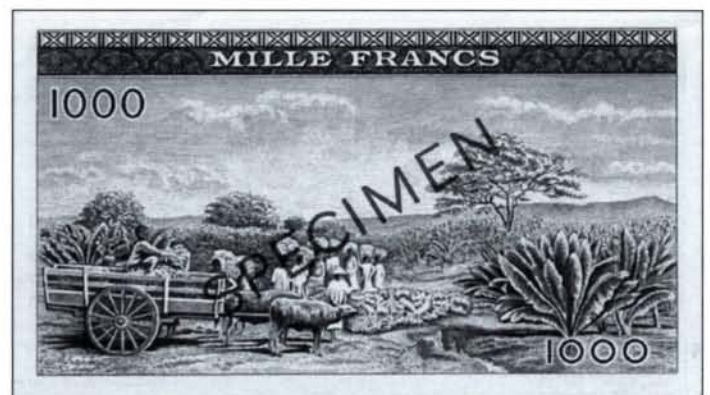


Second issue of Guinée notes, 500 francs





Second issue of Guinée notes, 5,000 francs



Second issue of Guinée notes, 1,000 francs

blue underprint and shows a scene of open pit bauxite mining. It is 9 inches by 5 inches.

The 1963 issue of 100 Guinean francs is brown/violet with a green and yellow underprint. Back is brown on orange underprint and shows a scene of a pineapple field. It is 9 inches by 5 inches.

The 1963 issue of 500 Guinean francs is blue with a peach and green underprint. Back is blue and shows a scene of a boats and

shoreline. It is 9 inches by 5 inches.

The 1963 issue of 1000 Guinean francs is green with a light pink underprint. Back is green and shows a scene of pineapple harvesting. It is 9 inches by 5 inches.

An unissued specimen of 5000 Guinean francs, probably printed in the late 1960's during inflationary times is purple with a green underprint. Back is purple and shows a Peul woman with coiffure.

Today, Conakry has a population

of well over 1 million, and about 70% of Guinea's eight million or so population consists of Malinke, Fula and Susu. The official language is French, but many other African languages like Malinke, Fula etc. are also spoken. Guinea, one of West Africa's richest and ecologically intact areas with huge stores of bauxite, diamonds, gold, and ample water, is still developing and adjusting in what can be called the post-Toure regime.



# A Brief Note of the Beginning of Slovenian Numismatics

About history, inhabitants and more

by Stanislav Stiblar, I.B.N.S. #5292

Today's Slovenia is located on the Southern edge of Central Europe, in the middle of a Slavic South, Romanic West and Germanic North. Since prehistoric times this has been a crossroad for military and trade routes from Italy to the continent.

In the past 1400 years, since Slovenians inhabit this area, all these merchants and soldiers influenced Slovenians with their habits and ideas, so today's inhabitants are a people of very interesting mentality—part of Italian dolce vita, German order and discipline and Balkans "take it easy."

Slovenia is a new state, at least in the modern way of meaning. First forms of statehood appeared in 8<sup>th</sup> century AD, but it never really survived because of unfortunate circumstances. But it may be interesting that Thomas Jefferson used part of the ideas of Slovenia while he wrote the Constitution of the USA. The foundations of modern statehood began during WW II by partisans. They also introduced the very first Slovenian bank notes and in 1944 founded the monetary institution of Slovenia (Denarni zavod Slovenije) as a predecessor of today's Bank of Slovenia.

Since the loss of independence in the

9<sup>th</sup> century the country was part of the state of Charles the Great and after that part of the Habsburg empire. Because it is relatively small, even today it has only about two million people, it never had an important role in history. After the breaking of the Austrian empire in 1918, it became part of Kingdom of Yugoslavia and after WW II, up to 1991, a part of Socialist Yugoslavia.

During the centuries Slovenia was mostly an agricultural country. In the last 100 years the industrialization increases so today Slovenia is mostly an industrial country, but in cities you can see a lot of small gardens, where citizens grow vegetables, not because of need, but more because of their farmer roots.

## About money matters and the decline of Yugoslavia

Money was introduced in this area by the Celts, but the golden age of coins was the 13<sup>th</sup> century, when there was operating about 20 mints. After those times the money in use was mostly of the Habsburg empire and then of Yugoslavia. During WW II money of occupying forces was in use, there appeared the already mentioned partisan bank notes and those of the Quisling Government.

The economy of the second Yugoslavia was almost permanently in crisis, which was shown in increasing inflation. All this caused mistrust in local currency so the majority saved their money in foreign values, especially German marks. Those were very popular and common because a lot of Yugoslavians worked in Germany. In the 1980s inflation increased and hard economic circumstances caused the appearance of nationalism and finally war and a decline of the country.

In late 1980s proposals for reforming the country occurred and its economy, mostly from Croatia and Slovenia. They were all rejected so these two republics started to think about independence. This was unacceptable to the central government, which started to introduce restrictive measures, including financial, to the disobedient republics.

## About origins and introduction of Slovenian currency

In 1990 it became evident that the existence of Yugoslavia without any changes is impossible and independence was the only solution if Slovenia was to progress, and in late 1990





90% of Slovenia's voters decided for it.

Because its own currency is one of the most important bases of statehood the preparations for introducing Slovenian currency started very early, in great secret. Bank notes were printed in a local printing house, where they also printed other financial papers. Paper for Yugoslavian bank notes was also produced in Slovenia, so the factory was fully employed with producing it and the control of federal authorities was strict. Because of all that special paper couldn't be produced there. The problem was solved by using paper, mentioned for use during the Olympic games in Sarajevo 1984 and stored in the paper factory. The paper was never in use and not very convenient but it included some security devices, that is watermark in shape of flake of snow. Anyhow, those bank notes were meant to be just a contemporary paying matter. At the beginning of 1991 most of the bank notes were prepared, except the smallest ones because using Yugoslavian coins was proposed. Proclamation of independence occurred 25.6.1991.

The first Slovenian bank notes were put into circulation on 9.10.1991. The exchange rate was 1 tolar for 1 dinar. Exchanging of the currency was finished in three days. The smallest bank note, 1 tolar, was printed at the very last minute. At the same time 0,10- and 0,50-tolar bank notes were put into printing to exchange Yugoslavian coins, but the printing was abandoned. During the use of bank notes some quantities of bank note were found too small, so the new bank notes of 500- and 1000-tolars were produced and soon the 5000-tolars bank note followed.

In 1992 a plot of introducing a counterfeit 1000-tolar bank note occurred. The quantity of those bank notes was huge and a new 2000-tolar bank note was prepared to exchange the 1000-tolar bank

note. But fortunately the counterfeiters were captured so exchanging of bank notes was not necessary. In the autumn of 1992 the new, real 1000-tolar bank note was introduced and soon after that old, provisional bank notes were replaced by the new series. At the end of 1994 all the bank notes were replaced and two years later more than 90 % of old bank notes or 99 % face value returned into the bank.

All bank notes of the provisional series are the same dimensions (150x73 mm), except 0,10- and 0,50-tolar bank note. They are smaller (120x60 mm). All bank notes have on the face side the image of Triglav, the highest mountain of the country. It is a symbol of Slovenia and it is shown also at the Slovenia's coat of arms. Back side shows symbolic honeycomb and a bee. This is overprinted by face value. At the left side of the backside a Dukes Chair is shown, a symbol of old Slovenia's statehood. This image was used also as a watermark on the new paper, used for printing the 1000- and 5000-tolar bank notes, issued in 1991 and 1992. So, bank notes are all the same, except for color and value. First printed 1000-tolar bank note, was printed on old paper and never put into circulation. The 0,10- and 2000-tolar bank notes were also never put into circulation. All these bank notes were destroyed, but 1000 pieces of each were spared and in May 2002 put on sale for collectors and are supposed to be rare. All bank notes of the provisional series are without the name of currency and obvious date. The date is hidden in first two numbers of serial number, except on 0,50- and 2000-tolar notes, because nobody was able to say when, if at all, these bank notes will ever be put in circulation. The name was chosen at the last minute before issuing.

As a matter of fact, all notes of provisional series are rare, particular in UNC condition, because almost all of them were returned to the bank and destroyed and beside

that some used bank notes are also hard to find. A similar problem exists with modern bank notes, of which some are already rare in UNC condition.

(source: Janez Majce: Slovenski Denar, Ljubljana 2001)

For some more details please write to e-mail: [masta.stiblar@siol.net](mailto:masta.stiblar@siol.net). We will gladly answer you.

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*Letters to the Editor —  
continued from page 5*

Everyone is welcome to come for all, or part of the time and it is also a chance to view the displays as fellow members compete for the honour of winning the Amon Carter award. I.B.N.S. members compete for this award at the Memphis and Australian conventions each year. Melbourne members also compete for the Coin Buyers International perpetual trophy. (Refer September *CAB Note World* article for display guidelines and judging criteria.)

A souvenir card is being created for the event and will be distributed free to every member attending the convention!

Morning and afternoon tea will be provided each day, and members also hold an informal dinner at a nearby restaurant on the Saturday night.

Accommodation at the Artarmon Motor Inn is available at the rate of AUD \$115 per night. Bookings can be made by phoning 029412 1644 or fax 0294122112 or visiting the website: [www.artarmoninn.com.au](http://www.artarmoninn.com.au) or sending your email to: [mikieby@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mikieby@ozemail.com.au)

Further information about this convention can be obtained by phoning 039314 7551 after hours or 0292350888 during business hours.

Email: [info@tonyjamesnoteworld.biz](mailto:info@tonyjamesnoteworld.biz)  
We hope to see you there.

*Yours sincerely*

*Tony James, I.B.N.S. #4416*



# The Sylvan Beach Amusement Park Scrip

by Steve Feller, I.B.N.S. #4195

Coney Island, Brighton Beach, Jones Beach, and Rockaway Beach are well known beaches with amusement areas nearby. They are all located near my hometown of New York City. But for me, in my youth, I remember most fondly Sylvan Beach near Utica, NY. This is located on the shores of Lake Oneida. Recently I had the chance to return after an absence of about forty years. Amazingly, at least to me, was the fact that the *Sylvan Beach Amusement Park* was intact. The bumper cars, the roller coaster, the carnival games and the arcade games were as they were when I last visited as a young boy. The rides were wonderfully aged and rickety. The arcade games even used scrip that appeared unchanged since that time as well. So after having a shore dinner at the famous Eddies of Sylvan Beach my group (wife Barb



and close friends) walked to the amusement area.

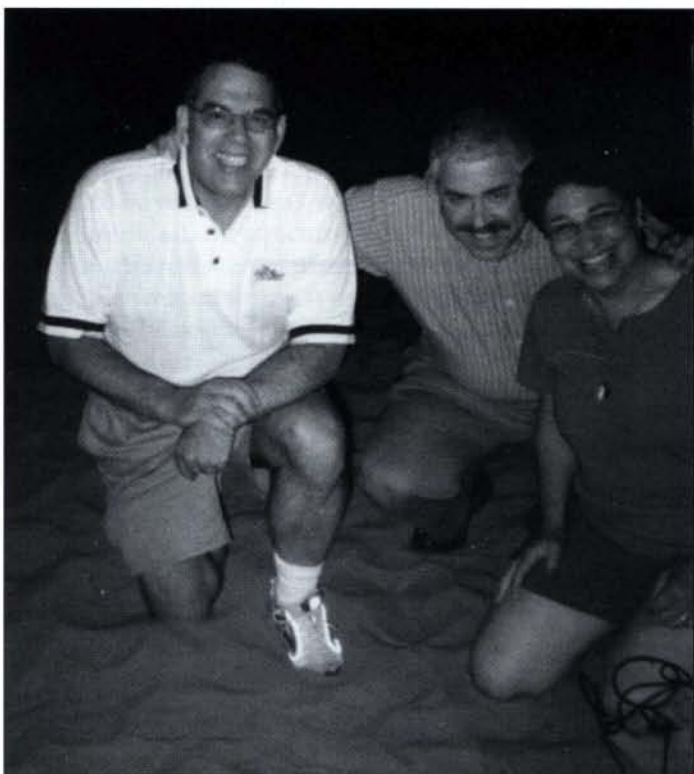
There we played and won the scrip shown in this piece. I endeavored to get a type set but it is incomplete. The purpose of the scrip

was that a person was to save enough in order to earn a prize—of course the scam is that even if you win you lose as the cost of the games far exceeds the values of the prizes. The scrip could be saved over a summer season and a person might win a radio set



Eddie's restaurant at Sylvan Beach, NY.

or the like for an entire summer's effort. Still on a recent night last August I felt like a winner as I got to experience the games of my youth. These included *skee-ball*—the bowling type game where the goal is to roll wooden balls up an incline across a valley and into holes of progressive point value. While I did win scrip by shooting a score over 150 the scrip received (2 points) was too low in value to be of any significance—still it was great fun. I then moved onto 21. This is one of several games in which the players carefully rolls a rubber ball down a course with holes downcourse. In this case one rolls a ball repeatedly in order to sum a point score to 21. The course contains about 30 holes each with an assigned point value. It is a game of skill which I was proud to win at a few times. Then I tried the poker version of 21. Here the goal was to roll five balls to form a winning poker hand of at least two



On the beach





Sylvan Beach scrip

pair. This was the easiest game to win on a consistent basis. Then there is fascination—a sort of communal version of bingo also played with rubber balls being rolled into certain holes.

Soon the scrip added up between the six of us and we ended up with a bit over 500 points. Together each couple was able to get a small cat with a bobbing head—surely not literally worth the tens of dollars spent! However, to us it was worth far more. The cat stands proudly on our mantle today. I kept the remainder as examples for my collection. Thus the price of memories.

The Sylvan Beach scrip was printed by the National Ticket Company of Shamokin, Pennsylvania. The small skeeball coupons measure 51 by 29 mm whereas the large poker chits measure 102 by 51 mm. There are apparent varieties within several of the denominations.

A visit to the National Ticket Company website ([www.nationalticket.com](http://www.nationalticket.com)) was revealing. They claim to be the world's leader in redemption ticket production. One can buy 100,000 standard coupons for just \$90. They also have many interesting products

such as automated ticket dispensers and "ticket eaters!" Custom coupons come in all sorts of styles sizes and colors. It is obvious that they make billions of coupons per year.

I would be interested in hearing from others who know about this kind of scrip. Surely there was (and is) lots of it in collectors hands. A brief search on the world wide web revealed over 30000 hits to just the term playland. A brief examination of the first few dozen sites listed indicated that there are playlands throughout the United States and Canada.

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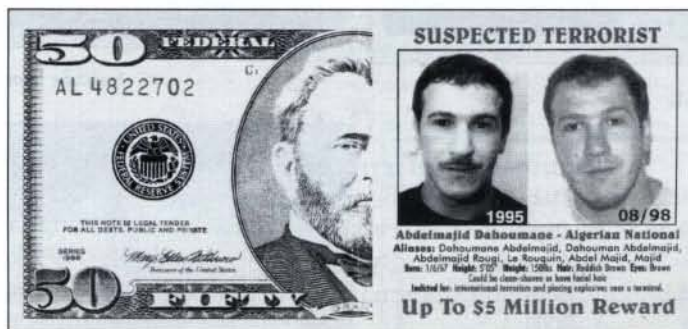


# More Department of Justice Bank Note Reward Leaflets

by Herbert A. Friedman, I.B.N.S. #4374

In the INBS Journal, Volume 40, No 1, 2001, I mentioned and illustrated bank notes produced by the United States Department of Justice. They offered rewards for Slobodan Milosevic, Radovan Karadzic, and Ratko Mladic, all charged with genocide. Milosevic was eventually arrested by the government of Serbia and handed over to representatives of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. The former Yugoslav president had been in a Belgrade prison since his arrest on domestic corruption charges. Both Karadzic and Mladic are still on the run at the time this article is being written. I will discuss another reward notice for Karadzic later in this report.

Four more Department of Justice reward offers printed on mock U.S. \$50 bills have recently come to light. These bills fold in such a way as to appear to be regular bank notes. When unfolded, they picture the scene of a terrorist act or the photograph of a wanted terrorist or terrorists. The scenes are usually at the right of the note, but in one specimen the photograph is placed



Algerian Terrorist

in the center of the note.

The first leaflet-bank note has the photograph in the center. It shows injured citizens being removed from the site of the 1998 American embassy bombing in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Text below the photograph is "Nairobi and Dar es Salaam bombings, 1998. 220 killed and 5,000 wounded."

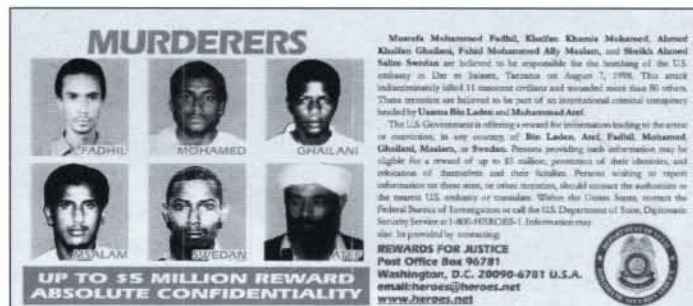
The U.S. embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, was bombed on the morning of August 7, 1998. Among the eleven people killed were seven Foreign Service nationals employed at the Embassy. Another 72 people, including two Americans, were wounded in the terrorist attack. At about the same time on the same day a bomb was detonated near the United States Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. It killed

212 people, twelve of which were Americans and 31 of which were Foreign Service Nationals. Another 4,650 people were wounded.

Although the bank note mentions both bombings on the face, the back offers a reward only for the Tanzania bombers. Photo-

graphs of six suspects are shown with a reward of 5 million dollars for the arrest and conviction of Mustafa Mohammed Fadhil, Khalfan Khamis Mohamed, Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, Fahid Mohammed, Ally Msalam, and Sheikh Ahmed Salim Swedan. The leaflet mentions that the six belong to a terrorist organization run by Usama bin Laden and Muhammad Atef, and also offer rewards for these two alleged planners of the operation.

One of the six has since been captured and convicted. On May 29, 2001, a New York federal court jury returned a guilty verdict against Khalfan Khamis Mohamed for conspiring with Usama Bin Laden and 17 other co-defendants to kill American nationals outside of the United States. He was sentenced to life in federal prison without the



Face and back —The bombing of he African Embassies





USS Cole



Suicide Bomber Jamal Lya

possibility of release.

The following three bank notes show the illustration on the face at the right side.

The second bank note -leaflet shows photographs of Algerian terrorist Abdelmajid Dahoumane both with and without facial hair. Text on the back states that on December 14, 1999, one Ahmed Ressay was apprehended by U.S. Customs for transporting illegal explosives across the Canadian border at Port Angeles, Washington. More explosive residue was found in a Vancouver hotel room that Ressay and Dahoumane shared. A suitcase found in the room tested positive for chemicals used in the manufacture of explosives.

On April 6, 2000, the Department of Justice announced that it would distribute "dollar-flyers" offering a 5-million dollar reward "to prevent

further acts of terrorism" by Dahoumane. The reward offer was apparently successful because Algerian Security Forces apprehended Dahoumane on March 5, 2001.

The third leaflet shows the USS Destroyer Cole. Text on the back of the leaflet mentions the October 12, 2000, suicide attack on the Cole by terrorists in the harbor at Aden, Yemen. The attack caused the death of 17 U.S. sailors and the injury of an additional 30. The leaflet offers a reward of 5 million dollars for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those persons who committed or aided in the attack on the USS Cole.

The fourth and final leaflet is in Spanish. At face right is a drawing

of terrorist suicide suspect Jamal Lya (spelled "Jamel"). The Spanish-language text mentions the July 19, 1994, bombing of Alas Chiricanas Airline flight 901 and offers a 5-million dollar reward for the arrest and conviction of those involved in this terrorist act.

The aircraft departed from France Field, Colon, Panama with a destination of Panama City, Panama on July 19, 1994. The plane exploded in flight killing 18 passengers, including three North Americans and the crew. Jamal Lya is suspected of carrying the bomb aboard the aircraft.

Reward leaflets in the form of bank notes continue to be used in the area formerly known as Yugoslavia. Radovan Karadzic is Bosnia's



Leaflets dropped over Bosnia



Face and back of note to Bosnia Serbs





Face and back of genuine P63



Propaganda P63 face and back

most notorious war crimes suspect and the mastermind behind ethnic cleansing during the Serbian terror in Bosnia. He was indicted for killing up to 8,000 Muslims by death squad in Srebrenica. He was indicted a second time for the siege of Sarajevo where 12,000 people died. He is charged with using 284 UN peacekeepers as human shields in 1995. He remains free and on the run six years after the end of the war. NATO forces believe that Karadzic moves between remote areas of eastern Bosnia and the Yugoslav republic of Montenegro where he was born.

NATO forces are still on the alert for his capture. On March 12, 2002, the United States Department of Justice funded a mock Bosnian bank note printed with a reward offer and a picture of Radovan Karadzic. NATO-led peacekeepers dropped the fake bank notes from helicopters in the region surrounded Foca in eastern Bosnia where they believe he is hiding.

The regular 1998 Bosnia 50 Federal Convertible Maraka note (Pick 67) pictures Musa Cazim Catic

(1878-1915). He was a mystic and lyric poet. The propaganda note replaces him with a photograph of Karadzic and white text with orange highlights on a black background on the face of the leaflet. The back of the leaflet is identical to the genuine note and shows a stone relief at left center. The leaflet is printed on a shiny paper. The color on the back of the leaflet varies from light to medium lilac-rose, apparently depending on the length of time that the individual leaflet laid on the ground in sunlight and rain. The size of the leaflet-bank note is  $5 \times 2 \leq$  inches.

Serbian text on the face of the leaflet says, "Program Rewards for Justice offers up to \$5,000,000. Program Rewards for Justice offers up to five million dollars for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons who have been accused by the International Tribunal for War Crimes in The Hague for violation of international law, including Radovan Karadzic. If you possess any information, we ask that you please call Rewards for Justice on the telephone numbers or

on e-mail address as shown down below. All your connections will be treated as confidential...

CALL NOW!

061 222 305

bh\_rewards\_forjustice@hotmail.com

<http://

lw11fd.law11.hotmail.msn.com/cgi-bin/

HoTMaiL?curmbox=F000000001&am

p;a=08b39a7a831caf571351ce2611b6ca31>

Posters have also been produced by the United States that show both Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, his army chief during the war in Bosnia. The posters use the same photo of Karadzic as the bank note, and the text appears identical. Many local Serbs remain loyal to the two and they are reported to have defaced and torn down many of the reward posters.

As Operation Enduring Freedom came to a close, bank notes continue to be used in Afghanistan. We reported on such items in past articles. The first was a 100-Afghanis bank note overprinted "Our goals will be achieved, if not willingly, then by overwhelming force."



In February 2002, U.S. aircraft dropped envelopes adorned with an image of President George W. Bush and containing two 100-Afghanis notes. It is assumed that there was also a message enclosed. The text, if any, is unknown at present.

Although the major fighting portion of the war was thought to be over, a vicious battle erupted once again on March 2. A group of from 400 to 2000 Taliban and al-Qaida fighters was found to be regrouping near Gardez in the Paktia Province of eastern Afghanistan. Over 1000 American troops were deployed along with other Special Forces members of the coalition and Afghan government forces in "Operation Anaconda." The fight took place at altitudes between 10,000 and 12,000 feet. During the first ten days of this battle the Coalition forces dropped 4,200,000 leaflets.

The first propaganda leaflet in the form of a bank note was used during this battle, in which members of the Paktia Province Intelligence Unit distributed the leaflets. On March 6 local Afghans found what appeared to be enlarged copies of an Afghan bank note with propaganda text on the back. The face of the approximately 265 x 115 mm leaflet was very similar to the 1993 Da Afghanistan Bank 10,000 Afghanis bank note (Pick 63). The dominant colors of the face of the parody are blue and pink, whereas the colors of the genuine notes are green and pink. Four lines of propaganda text appear at the center on the face. The figure

"150,000,000" was printed in place of "10,000" at the lower right. The back is entirely propaganda text in black on white, with five lines at left in Pashtun and five lines at right in Urdu.

Text on the back of the imitation bank note is reported to read: "Dear countrymen: The al-Qaida terrorists are our enemy. They are the enemy of your independence and freedom. Come on. Let us find their most secret hiding places. Search them out and inform the intelligence service of the province and get the big prize." The reward, about \$4,285, would be paid to any citizen who aided in the capture of Taliban or al-Qaida fighters. The notes were circulated around the Shah-i-Kot Valley and Gardez in Paktia Province.

On April 22 U.S. aircraft reportedly dropped Afghan currency over parts of southern Afghanistan where enemy leaflets had circulated urging the Taliban to regroup and wage holy war against the United States and its allies. United States Air Force C-130 transport aircraft dropped 10,000-afghani notes over areas near the Afghan border town of Spin Boldak and the nearby Pakistani town of Chaman. One local resident reported finding eight 10,000-afghani notes. Another claimed to have found a complete bundle of 800,000 afghani. The value of the afghani varies, but was about 40,000 to the dollar at the time of the airdrop.

We don't know if these bank notes were genuine, or propaganda parodies nearly identical to the

oversized notes mentioned above. There seems no reason that American forces would drop genuine currency. Slightly blurred parodies of the Da Afghanistan Bank P.63 10,000-afghanis bank note with the figure "150,000,000" added at the lower right and propaganda text on the face and back are known to exist. Although the news report does not state that this drop consisted of propaganda bank notes, I think we can assume that it did. The bank note parodies are about 77 x 175mm in size, while the genuine bank note is approximately 78 x 171mm in size.

The United States has also sent 1000 military advisors to the Philippine Islands to aid in the fight against Muslim terrorists. The guerrilla group Abu Sayyaf (Bearer of the Sword), thought to be linked to the al-Qaida, had kidnapped an American couple and held them in captivity for over a year. The husband, Martin Burnham of Wichita, Kansas, was killed recently in a rescue attempt. His wife, Gracia, survived. In June of 2002 the U.S. State Department began disseminating leaflets offering rewards of five million dollars for the leader of the terrorists, Abu Sabaya, and four of his lieutenants, Khadaffy Janjalani, Abu Solaiman, Isnilon Hapilon, and Hamsiraji Sali. The leaflets have been distributed at Tipo-tipo on the southern island of Basilan. It is possible that these leaflets will soon appear in the form of the standard \$50 reward leaflets.



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Both notes are drawn in painstaking detail by the deft hand of Tim Prusmack, *The Mozart of Money Art*, may be ordered now at \$25 each (five for \$100). Printing is limited to 250.

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## Book Announcement

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# Bank Notes from Western China with Legends in Tibetan Scrip

by Wolfgang Bertsch, I.B.N.S. #8035

The former province of Xikang (spelt Hsi k'ang in the older Wade/Giles system for transcription of Chinese characters) which was formally established by the Chinese Central Government in 1939 included east Tibetan territory and western districts of present day Sichuan province.<sup>1</sup> The capital of the newly created province was Kangding (formerly known as Tachienlu or Tatsienlu; the Tibetans call this town *dar rtse mdo*), located in a mountainous area west of Chengdu, the present capital of Sichuan. Kangding was known in the 19th and early twentieth century as an important bordertown and commercial center through which considerable quantities of brick tea were imported by Tibet (Fig. 1). The currency which circulated in the western part of Xikang, inhabited almost exclusively by Tibetans, were Tibetan coins and paper money from Lhasa and Indian rupees (Fig. 9). In the eastern part of the province, inhabited by both Chinese and Tibetans, the main currency consisted in the so called Sichuan rupees (Fig. 10 and 11) and Chinese silver yuans (dollars), mostly the ones with the portrait of Yuan Shikai (Fig 8). By the end of the 1930s the Kuomintang government of Chongqing (formerly transcribed as *Chongking* or *Chungking*) intended to introduce Chinese paper money to the new province of Xikang in order to unite it with the rest of China also as far as the currency was concerned. In order to pursue this aim, three bank note issues were specially prepared for Xikang and released for circulation in Kangding. These issues are the subject of the present article.

## 1. The Bank Notes of the Provincial Bank of Xikang

In 1939 the Provincial Bank of Xikang issued three bank notes in Kangding which are inscribed with both Tibetan and Chinese legends. This bank opened in August 1937 with a capital of 500,000.- yuan. The president of the bank was Li Xianchun and its director Chen

Zhongliang. The notes of this bank were issued in the denominations of 1/2, 1 and 5 yuan (Figs. 2-7). The denomination "yuan" is rendered in Tibetan as "sgor-mo," a word which the Tibetans used when referring to the so-called Sichuan rupee which was minted in Chengdu from 1902 and later also in Kangding between 1930 and 1942 (Fig. 10 and 11). The



Fig. 1 Tatsienlu (Kangding) in 1940

The French author Andre Guibaut one of whose photograph is reproduced here, gives the following description of this former border town: "[Tatsienlou] is still a town of the Middle Ages, with its narrow, paved streets lined with booths of merchandise, its gates closed regularly every evening at the moment when the night-watchmen start their rounds, marking the passage of the hours with big blows on their gongs, as the *serenos* used to do in the provincial cities of Spain. Here Tibetans and Chinese barter their wares; long processions of tea-carriers pass at regular intervals along the mountain tracks which start in the Sseutchouen and end in the graneries of Tatsienlou, and the great Tibetan yak caravans, loaded with bales of raw wool, end their long journey in its caravanserais. All and sundry, Tibetans and Chinese, spend their money in its little restaurants and buy manufactured knick-knacks in its shops. Its streets are enlivened by picturesque crowds, Chinamen in soft silken robes jostling against the caravaneers of Central Asia in their rough sheep-skin coats. Lamas in red cloaks, elegantly draped, assemble in the squares, chattering away to each other until some initiate summons them to perform certain rites.<sup>22</sup>

Provincial Bank of Xikang





Fig. 9. Indian rupees with the portrait of Edward VII and George V. Diameter: 30.5 mm. Average weight: 11.66 g.

early Chengdu issues were minted in good silver and were to replace the British Indian rupee which, as we already mentioned, became very popular in eastern Tibet from about 1900 onwards. The early Sichuan rupees were valued at one third of a Chinese silver yuan and could circulate nearly at par with the Indian rupee. However, the Sichuan rupees which were minted later in Chengdu, and all those which were minted in Kangding, had a much lower silver content and circulated at a huge discount in relation to its Indian counterpart and to the Chinese silver yuan. The worst specimens of the late minting period of Kangding were worth only about one seventh to one eighth of a Chinese silver dollar. We can presume that the denomination "yuan" and "sgor-mo" as it appears on the three notes of the Provincial Bank of Xikang is a reference to the early Sichuan rupees which were of reasonably good silver (Fig. 10). The one yuan note was equivalent to 4 Jiao, 4 Fen and 8 Li of the Fa-bi Yuan (Fa-bi legal currency), hence its value was less than half when

compared to the yuan notes which were used in therest of China<sup>3</sup>. Since the Fa-bi Yuan (as paper currency unit) had a lower value than the silver yuan in Kangding, one can calculate that the one yuan notes of the Provincial Bank of Xikang were worth only about one third of a silver yuan, i.e. about the same as the early Sichuan rupees.

The notes of the Provincial Bank of Xikang only circulated for three years between 1939 and 1941. In 1941 they were withdrawn and lost their validity. The reason was that the Chinese authorities considered them only as a first step toward a uniform currency system. The main purpose of the notes of the Provincial Bank was to acquaint the population of Xikang with the use of paper currency, issued in a denomination which the inhabitants of this province understood, i.e. the Sichuan rupee, before introducing the official Chinese paper currency, the Fa-bi yuan as the next step<sup>5</sup>.

## 2. Bank Notes of the Farmers Bank with Tibetan Overprints

In a Chinese article published 12 years ago by Wu Chou Zhong and Gu Wenbin two bank notes issued by the "Farmers Bank" of China are mentioned and illustrated. Both notes have overprints in Tibetan script<sup>6</sup>.

Without Tibetan overprints the two notes of five and ten yuan of the Farmers Bank are well known and common; they are dated 1935 (Pick nr. 458 and 459)<sup>7</sup>. On the overprinted notes the denomination "sgor-mo lnga" and "sgor-mo bcu" ("five yuan" and "ten yuan") is inserted in Tibetan script into the two vertical cartouches near the right and left border of the facess of the notes (Figs. 12 and 13).

The Chinese authors cannot furnish much information on the origin and purpose of these notes, but they mention how they were discovered in Shanghai:

The bank notes with Tibetan inscriptions of the Farmers Bank appeared at the same time as the bank notes with Tibetan inscription of the Central Bank. After the





Fig. 10 Two variants of the Sichuan rupee. Chengdu Mint. Diameter: 30.5 mm. weight: 11.4. g.

resistance movement against the Japanese aggression we were still young, when we saw in the Antiques Market in Guang-Dong Street in Shanghai the bank notes of the Farmers Bank with Tibetan inscriptions. As they were cheap, each of us bought two specimens. One week later we came again, but all these notes had been sold out. The dealer, Mr. Wang Shou Yi (he still works in this market now-days) told us that all the notes were bought by Mr. Lu. Since then we never saw again such notes. They are bank notes of the Farmers Bank, printed in 1935 by the printers De Na Luo [De la Rue] which have an overprint in Tibetan script. The script can be found in the middle part to the right and left of the faces of the notes. We noted that both new and used notes of the Central Bank notes with Tibetan script exist, but there are only used notes among the Farmers Bank notes with Tibetan script."

Farmers Bank notes are not the only Chinese bank notes with side panels as design elements on their backs. As an example of notes which

have very similar side panels one may mention the issues of the Shan Xi (Shensi) Provincial Bank of which examples exist where these panels bear an overprint consisting of two Chinese characters: either "Shanxi" or "Taiyuan."<sup>8</sup> One may conclude from this that the panels found on the faces of the Farmers Bank issues were meant to serve a similar purpose, i.e. to accommodate Chinese characters to designate certain towns or provinces of China<sup>9</sup>. Also there exist notes of the Farmers Bank (similar to those shown as Figs 12 and 13), in the side panels of which are printed figures which are set into a frame.<sup>10</sup>

It is therefore surprising to find Farmers Bank notes the panels of which are inscribed with Tibetan *dbu-can* script characters which render the denomination of the notes (5 and 10 yuan) in Tibetan, but do not contain any reference to a place name. The fact that the notes appeared on the Shanghai antiques market at the same time and at the

same place as the better known Central Bank of China notes with Tibetan overprints (see part three of this article)<sup>11</sup> does not necessarily increase the confidence one might have in the Farmers Bank issues with overprints, considering that the genuineness of the overprints on the Central Bank notes is very much disputed among Chinese and Western specialists.

However, the extreme rarity of the Farmers Bank notes with Tibetan overprints in their face panels may speak in favor of the genuineness of the overprint. A forger would certainly have produced further specimens after seeing that there is collectors' interest in them. Moreover, the note which the British bank note collector and dealer Colin Narbeth has acquired recently (see fig. 13) is the 5 yuan specimen (serial number EG 000781) illustrated by Wu Chou Zhong and Gu Wenbin in their article and can therefore be identified beyond any doubt as one of the notes which were purchased



Fig. 11.

Sichuan rupee. Kangding Mint. Diameter: 30.5 mm. weight: 11.18 g.



Fig. 8

Yuan Shikai Dollar. third year of the republic (= A.D. 1914). Diameter: 29 mm. Weight: 26.68 g.





Fig. 2 Note of 1/2 yuan of the Provincial Bank of Xikang

The following Tibetan inscription is to be found on the back: *khamsgzhung zhing chen gyi dngul mdzed khang* (Bank of the Provincial Government of Kham). *sgor-mo phyed* (half yuan); *knmg yang tshas-eng Pu bka' gnung* (by order of Tung yang cai zheng bu). According to K. Gabrisch<sup>23</sup> *Cai zheng bu* could be an alternative form of *Chia-ting Fu*, which could be an antiquated form for Kangding. According to Wang Chenzi<sup>24</sup> the first, the third and the fourth (printed in small characters) line in Chinese script on the face of the note have to be read as follows (reading from right to left): *Xi kang sheng ying hang* (Bank of Xikang province); *Cai zhen bu he zhun* (authorized by the Ministry of Finance); *Cai zhen bu cheng du yin shua shue chen ying* (printed in the Chengdu Printing Press of the Finance Ministry). According to Wang Chenzi *Cai zhen bu* can also mean "Ministry of Finance." Next to the two large letters in the right panel two Chinese characters can be read as "Zang bi" (Tibet money). The line of Chinese characters between the two serial numbers means: "Printed in the 28th year of the Chinese Republic" (A.D. 1939).

The only Tibetan inscription to be found on the face of the note is the denomination *sgor-mo phyed* ("half rupee") in the lower left and upper right corner.

The building on the face of the note is a Tibetan monastery in Kangding. The landscape to be seen is very similar to the one shown in Fig. 1.

by these Shanghai collectors in the late 1940s (after 1945). We can assume that the Farmers Bank notes with Tibetan overprint which appeared in Shanghai in the 1940s and were sold by the dealer Wang Shou Yi were the only such notes ever to be sold to collectors, as they do not seem to be recorded in any older publication on Chinese bank notes. However, three modern catalogues on Chinese bank notes which appeared in the late 1980s and 1990s do mention similar notes<sup>12</sup>.

A bank note collector from Switzerland, Mr. Schneider-von Euw, kindly sent me a Xerox copy of a 1 yuan note of the Farmers Bank from the same series dated 1935, which has the Tibetan overprint "sgor-mo gcig" (Fig. 12). Notes of the Farmers Bank of 1 yuan and of 50 yuan with Tibetan overprints are mentioned, but not illustrated in a Chinese bank note catalog<sup>13</sup>.

The year when the Farmers bank notes with Tibetan overprints were issued can be determined approximately with the help of western

sources. In 1940 an anonymous note in *The Numismatist* mentions bank notes of the Farmers Bank with Tibetan overprints as reported recently from Chongqing.<sup>14</sup> Unfortunately the note of the *Numismatist* does not mention which bank note issue of the Farmers Bank was overprinted but it is reasonable to assume that this publication refers to the series of notes which I discuss here.

A French language article published in 1941 reports that recently (i.e. in 1940 or 1941) the Farmers Bank has inaugurated a palace like branch in the southern part of *Tatsienlou* (Kangding). The construction of the building took a complete year<sup>15</sup>. The two sources just mentioned allow the conclusion that the Farmers Bank notes with Tibetan overprints were issued on or before 1940. Nevertheless, one has to take into account that the Farmers Bank may have had already a provisional branch office in Kangding before opening its palace like branch and that notes with Tibetan overprints could have been circulated by the

earlier, more modest branch.

Most probably the notes of the Farmers Bank with Tibetan overprints circulated for a short time only as it is difficult to imagine that they were valid after November 1941. This is the month when the notes of the Central Bank of China with Tibetan overprints were released for circulation in Kangding (see part 3). The denomination "yuan" given on the latter notes designates the Chinese silver yuan and they could hardly circulate alongside with the issues of the Farmer's Bank the value of which was given as "sgor-mo" in Tibetan which referred to the Sichuan rupee. The literate Tibetan population could have distinguished between the denomination "sgormo" of the Farmers Bank issues (Fig. 12 and 13) and the denomination "dva yang" (Fig. 15) printed on the Central Bank issues, but the Chinese population of Xikang would have been confused since the denomination is given in Chinese only as "yuan" on both note issues.

The published evidence leaves no doubt that the Farmers Bank did issue notes with Tibetan overprints for use in Xikang. While there is every possibility that in future notes of the Farmers Bank with forged





Fig. 3 Specimen note of one yuan of the Provincial Bank of Xikang (Collection Karl Gabrisch) the building seen on the face of the note is the Potala Palance (winter residence of the Dalai Lamas in Lhasa).



Fig. 4. Unissued one yuan note of the Provincial Bank of Xikang without seal imprint and serial numbers (collection Colin Narbeth).

Tibetan overprints will appear in China, I think that it is likely that the few examples which are known presently, as the ones illustrated as Fig. 12 and 13, are either from among the notes which were actually released by the Kangding branch of the Farmers Bank of China or are samples which were kept in Chungking, and were later taken to Shanghai where they appeared on the antiques market.

### 3. Notes of the Central Bank of China with Tibetan Overprints

The release of the Central Bank of China notes of 1, 5 and 10 yuan with Tibetan overprints is also reported in the *Numismatist* in 1942 and it is stated that they were put into circulation by the branch office of the Central Bank in Kangding<sup>16</sup>. Although the note in the *Numismatist* does not mention Tibetan overprints applied to the notes, it is reasonable to assume that the anonymous author of the note refers to the known Central Bank notes with overprints in Tibetan. Therefore

the early record of these notes in a western numismatic journal supports those Chinese authors who are convinced that there exist Central Bank notes of the three lower denominations with genuine Tibetan overprints. However, soon after these notes were released in Kangding Chinese forgers produced counterfeits to sell to collectors.

An important source for the issue of these notes is given by the Chinese authors Wo Chou Zhong and Gu Wenbin in which it is mentioned that on November 22nd 1941 the Central Bank of China surcharged notes of the denominations of 1, 5 and 10 yuan with Tibetan inscriptions and transported these notes to Kangding where they were released for circulation by the branch of the Central Bank in that city<sup>17</sup>.

There exist notes of 50 and 100 yuan of the same bank note series of the Central Bank, dated 1936, with Tibetan overprints (Fig. 19 and 20). The authenticity of the overprints on the 50 yuan notes is doubted by

nearly all Chinese authors<sup>18</sup>, while some authors are of the opinion that also 100 yuan notes with genuine overprints were released for circulation. I think that this is very improbable: one has to remember that Tibetans and other persons living around Kangding and Luding visited Kangding carrying silver currency in the form of silver dollars or ingots with them. They must have converted these for paper currency with the help of local money changers before starting their shopping. Notes of high denominations like 50 or 100 yuan would certainly have aroused suspicion, particularly among illiterate persons who represented the large majority of the Xikang population, and would have caused difficulties in the markets as few salesmen would have been able to give change for notes of high denomination<sup>19</sup>. Moreover, one has to remember that both the Chinese source indicated in footnote 16 and the western source found in the *Numismatist* (for the full text see nr. 2 of the *Commented Bibliography*) agree





Fig. 5. Issued note of one yuan of the Provincial Bank of Xikang (Collection Collin Narbeth)



Fig. 6. Specimen note of 5 yuan of the Provincial Bank of Xikang (collection Karl Gabrisch). The building seen on the note supposedly represents the Stupa of Suiyuan Xilatusi monastery.<sup>25</sup>

in only mentioning notes of 1, 5 and 10 yuan of the Central Bank which were issued for Nikang. One can therefore assume that not only the overprint on the 50 yuan notes is very doubtful, but that the overprints

in Tibetan script found on 100 yuan notes are most probably the work of forgers (at the best they could be called "unofficial creations").

There exist genuine Tibetan overprints and forged ones for the

notes of 1, 5 and 10 yuan. The forged overprints most probably were produced in Chengdu in the late 1940s for the notes of 1, 5 and 10 yuan. In about 1990 I saw new forgeries of Tibetan overprints in Hong Kong and Singapore (Figs. 16 and 17). About five years ago I acquired forged overprints on 5 and 10 yuan notes in Chengdu; these are easily detected as the Tibetan script used is very unprofessional (Fig. 18)<sup>20</sup>.

### Conclusion

Although this was doubted previously, we now know with certainty that the Central Bank as well as the Farmers Bank of China had some of their notes overprinted with Tibetan legends and released these overprinted notes for circulation via their branches in Kangding. Since the type of notes of the Central Bank which were used for overprinting is still very common nowadays many forgers were tempted to convert them into "rarities" by surcharging them with



Fig. 7. 5 yuan note of the Provincial Bank of Xikang. On the face the serial number E 0080000 is printed over the original nr. D 0026789, which also appears on the back of the note. The imprint of the red seal appears twice (collection Colin Narbeth).





Fig. 12.

1 yuan note of the Farmers Bank with tibetan overprint *sgor-mo gcig* ("one rupee") on face (collection Emil schneider-von Euw).



Fig. 13.

5 yuan note of the Farmers bank with tibetan overprint *sgor-mo lnga* ("5 rupees") (collection Colin Narbeth).

Tibetan overprints made with forged printing blocks. Not in every case were the forgers familiar with the Tibetan script and it happened that they overprinted some notes with legends which do not match the denomination indicated on the original note thus making it easy for collectors to recognize these overprints as forgeries (Figs. 16 and 17). However, when examining notes with Tibetan overprints of professional style and which are matching the denomination of the original note such as those which were produced in the late 1940s it is quite difficult to identify forged notes (see footnote 20). Only if a document of the Central Bank can be found mentioning (indicating the serial number ranges) which notes were overprinted with Tibetan script, could notes with genuine overprints be identified beyond any doubt.

The rarity of the overprinted notes of the Farmers Bank allows the assumption that the Tibetan over-

print may be genuine on the few surviving notes.

There is no danger of coming across forged notes of the Provincial Bank of Xikang as these notes were printed from blocks which contained both the Chinese and the Tibetan legends.

Undoubtedly it would be useful to interview elder citizens of Kangding to find out what they remember regarding the kind of notes which circulated in Kangding in about 1940. Some enlightening information and even actual bank notes may come to light, making up for the present lack of documentary evidence.

#### Appendix

##### Bank Notes of the Provincial Bank of Xikang from Private Collections.

##### Abbreviations:

- BNS = Bhupendra Narayan Shrestha (Nepal)
- CN = Colin Narbeth (U.K.)
- EB = Erwin Beyer (Germany)

KG = Karl Gabrisch (Germany)

The notes of the collection of the late Karl Gabrisch were bought in the following auction: Spink-Taisei: *Hong Kong Coin Auction. Catalogue 13*. Hongkong, Thursday 3 September 1992, lot 830. The three notes are pictured superimposed (table 45) so that only the face of the 1/2 note can be seen completely

NGR = Nicholas G. Rhodes (U.K.)

WB = Wolfgang Bertsch (Germany)

WH = Wesley Halpert (U.S.A.).

The notes from the collection of Wesley Halpert were sold in the following auction: Spink, New York. *Ancient, Foreign and United States Coins and Banknotes*. Monday 11 & Tuesday 12 December 2000, lot nr. 311 und 312. The faces of the three notes (1/2, 1 und 5 yuan) are illustrated in color in the auction catalog.

Panish = Panish, Charles K.: "Tibetan Paper Money" In: *Whitman Numismatic Journal*, Vol. 5, Nr. 8, August 1969, pp. 467 - 471 and Vol. 5, Nr. 9, September 1968, pp. 501 - 508.

SCWPM-SI = Pick, Albert (edited by Shafer, Neil and Bruce II, Cohn R.):



*Standard Catalog of World Paper Money*  
Vol. 1, specialized issues, 8th edition, Iola.  
Wisconsin, 1998, p. 371.

Smith/Matravers = Smith, Ward D. and  
Matravers, Brian: *Chinese Bank Notes*.  
Shirjeh Publications. Menlo Park,  
California, 1970, pp. 100-101. Only the  
face of the one yuan specimen note is  
illustrated (H75-10).

All notes, excepting some specimen  
notes which are without signature, have  
the same signature. This is located on  
the face of the 1/2 yuan note and on the  
backside of the 1 and 5 yuan notes. The  
serial numbers appear twice in red on  
the faces and twice in black on the backs  
of the 1 and 5 yuan notes. They appear  
black on the face and once in red on the  
back of the 1/2 yuan notes.

#### 1/2 Yuan

- AO 049225 CN  
AO 138829 WH (now in the collection  
of Alexander Lissanevitch)  
AO188750 EB  
B0015946 Taisei-Baldwin-Gillio,  
Catalogue nr. 22, 7. 3. 1996,  
lot 1633.  
BOOSS111 CN  
C0060970 NGR (ex CN)

C0065398 Xu Feng & Zhao Longye  
(bibliography nr. 18) und Tie  
Jun (bibliography nr. 10).

- C0193632 CN  
C0196390 SCWPM-SI  
D0021836 CN (ex Zhang Zhi Zhong;  
bibliography nr. 19)  
D0021904 Shing-Lee, Auction,  
catalogue nr. 4, Hongkong,  
15.4.1987, lot 418.  
D0021836 CN  
DO 021951 NGR  
D0021956 KG  
D0047240 WB (ex KG) (Fig. 2)

This note is illustrated in the following  
book: : Gabrisch, Karl: *Geld aus Tibet*  
Winterthur und Rikon 1990, p. 105.

#### 1 Yuan

- A0021862 SCWPM-SI  
B0021353 NGR (ex CX)  
B0030499 CN (Fig. 5)  
B0057682 Unidentified Chinese  
publication (according to  
NGR)  
B0091040 BNS  
B0091222 NGR  
C0070077 WB

C0076650 WH (ex WB; now in the  
collection of Alexander  
Lissanevitch)

- D0014685 NGR (ex Taisei-Baldwin-  
Gillio Auction, nr. 28,  
Singapore, 4.3.1999, lot  
1360)  
E0005149 CN  
E0071178 Panish  
F0080568 CN (ex Zhang Zhi Zhong;  
bibliography nr. 20). The  
following serial number is to  
be seen on the backside of  
the note: D0080568.  
G0062088 CN (ex K. Austin)  
G0095871/0095861 (numbering mistake)  
Xu Feng & Zhao Longye  
(bibliography nr. 18) und Tie  
Jun (bibliography nr. 10).  
Specimen AooOOOOO with signature  
KG (Fig. 3)  
Specimen AooOOOOO Smith/Matravers  
Specimen without serial number. Shing-  
Lee, Auction, Catalogue nr. 4,  
Hongkong, 15.4.1987, lot 418.  
Specimen without serial number and  
without signature. CN (Fig. 4)



Fig. 14.

1 yuan note of the Central Bank of China with Tibetan overprint  
of dubious provenance.



Fig. 15. 10 yuan note of the Central Bank of China with Tibetan  
overprint *krung yang dngul khang* (Bank of China); *dva yang bu* (ten  
yuan). The overprint on this note may be genuine.





Fig. 16. Face of a 5 yuan note of the Central Bank of China with forged Tibetan overprint: *dva yang bcu* (ten yuan).



Fig 17. Face of a 5 yuan note of the Central Bank of China with forged Tibetan overprint: *dva yang lna bcu* (fifty yuan).

### 5 Yuan

- D0033658 EB  
D0090409 WB  
E 0072144 NGR (ex Spink-Taisei, Catalogue nr. 13, Hongkong 3.9.1992, lot 830)  
E0076486 WI-I (now in the collection of Alexander Lissanevitch)  
E0080000 (on D0026789) CN (ex Wu Chouzhong; bibliography nr. 16). The serial number is printed twice on the face of the note while on the back the following serial number appears once: D0026789. The red seal on the face (left) of the note is printed twice. This note is also illustrated by Zhang Zhi Zhong (bibliography nr. 19). Cf. Fig. 7.

Specimen without serial number and signature. KG (Fig. 6)

Specimen without serial number Xu Feng & Zhao Longye (bibliography nr. 18) and Tie Jun (bibliography nr. 10).

Specimen without serial number Shing-Lee, auction, catalogue nr. 4, Hongkong, 15.4.1987, lot 418.

It is quite possible that among the listed unnumbered specimen notes of 1 and 5 yuan some are identical. The serial numbers of the specimen notes of one yuan are composed of two small and five large zeros. One may conclude from this that the maximum number of notes to be printed for each serial letter was to be 99,999. Most probably a larger amount of notes for each serial letter were printed for the issue of 1/2 yuan, as two notes are known which display serial numbers with six digits (A0138829 and C0196390).

According to Wang Chengzhi (see

bibliography nr. 11) the Provincial Bank of Xikang issued notes to the total value of 21,000,000 yuan. According to Wang Songling and Yu Xianzhen (see bibliography nr. 14) and Xu Feng / Zhao Longye (bibliography nr. 17) the total value of all issued notes was only 2,000,000, while Wang Chengzhi (bibliography nr. 11) gives the figure 2,100,000. The serial numbers of the known notes which are listed above suggest that the total amount of 2 or 2.1 million yuan is more realistic than the larger figure of 21 million yuan.

Based on the notes which are known to him Nicholas Rhodes gives the following amount of notes issued for the different denominations

0.5 yuan: Serial letters A-D, numbers 1-200,000, total of 800,000 notes to the total amount of 400,000 yuan.

1 yuan: Serial letters A-G, numbers 1-100,000, total of 700,000 notes to the total amount of 700,000 yuan.

5 yuan: Serial letters D-E, numbers 1-100,000, total of 200,000 notes to the total amount of 1,000,000 yuan.

Total value of all issued notes: 2,100,000 yuan. The relative small amount of 5 yuan notes which were issued is confirmed by the fact that nowadays this is the rarest note of this series.

### Commented Bibliography

1. Anonymous: "Tibetan Notes to Circulate." *The Numismatist*, Vol. 53 (1940), p. 439.

Here is the complete text:

#### TIBETAN NOTES TO CIRCULATE

A new issue of currency notes in Tibet has recently been reported from Chungking. The notes are to be surcharged in the Tibetan language on the notes issued by the Farmers Bank of China.

2. Anonymous: "Tibetan Bank Notes" *The Numismatist*, Vol. 55 (1942), p. 27.

Here is the complete text:

#### TIBETAN BANK NOTES

Through the courtesy of Vernon L. Brown, member of the A.N.A. Board of Governors, we are advised about a bank note issue which is being released through the Central Bank of China, at Chungking. The yuan notes are intended to effect a program of currency unification in the western border areas and will be issued in three denominations: One, five and ten yuan.

The Central Bank's branch in Kanting, Sikiang province, will place the notes in circulation, in accordance with instructions furnished by the Ministry of Finance.

- 2a. Bertsch, Wolfgang: "Banknotes of the Farmers Bank of China with Tibetan Overprints." In: *Spink Numismatic Circular*. Vol. CIX, nr. 6, London, December 2001, pp. 372-373.

A brief discussion of the circumstances surrounding the issue of the overprinted notes of the Farmers Bank and their discovery in Shanghai. With illustration of a 5 yuan note with the Tibetan overprint "sgor-mo lnga."

3. Beyer Erwin: *Important Provincial, Commercial and Military Banknotes of China*. Graftschaff, June 2001, Vol. II, p. 607.

The three notes with Tibetan overprints, issued by the Provincial Bank of Xikang, are listed, but not illustrated.

- 3a. Bruce II, Colin R., Deyell, John S., Rhodes, Nicholas and Spengler, William:



*The Standard Guide to South Asian Coins and Paper Money*. Krause Publications. Iola, Wisconsin, n.d. [1991], p. 528.

Notes of 1, 5, 10, 50 and 100 yuan of the Central Bank of China with Tibetan overprints are catalogued as TIB-16 to TIB-20. The notes of 5, 10 and 100 Yuan are illustrated. The 0.5 and 1 yuan notes of the Provincial Bank of Xikang are listed and illustrated as TIB-21 and TIB-22.

4. Bur Wen: "The 'Fa-bi' Banknotes Issued by the Central Bank of China with Tibetan Inscription. (Zheng Yang Ying Hang Zhang Wen Fa Bi Juan)." In: *Collected Papers of the First Annual Meeting of the Numismatic Society of Shanghai* (1985), pp. 121-123 (first published in: Quan Tan, 2. Vol, Nr. 3, Taipei, 25. 12. 1985).

Overprinted notes were first issued in Kangding on 22nd November 1941, in denominations 1, 5 & 10 yuan. Later 100 yuan notes were issued, and the 1 & 5 yuan notes ceased to be overprinted as there was only limited demand for the small denominations. The overprinted 50 yuan notes are all forgeries, and there is discussion regarding various forgeries of these notes, and the false claim that they were made for military use in Burma.

5. Gabrisch, Karl: *Geld aus Tibet*.

Winterthur and Rikon, 1990, p. 105.

Contains an illustration of a 1/2 yuan note of the Provincial Bank of Xikang. The Tibetan inscriptions are translated.

- 5a. Gabrisch, Karl: *Currencies in Tibetan border lands* (Manuscript of the 14th chapter of a planned publication on the history of Tibet's money). Mannheim 1995.
- Gives a summary of the results published by Chinese numismatists on the bank notes and other forms of currency which circulated in Xikang.
6. Mao, King O.: *History of Chinese Paper Currency Issued by the Central Bank of China. From 1923-1949*. Vol. 1, Hongkong 1968, pp. 170, 171, 174, 175, 182, 183, 190, 191, 195 und 196.
- The faces and backs of the 1, 5, 10, 50 and 100 notes of the Central Bank of China with Tibetan overprints are illustrated and briefly explained. The author does not discuss the genuineness of the overprints.
- 6a. Pick, Albert (edited by Shafer, Neil and Bruce II, Colin R.): *Standard Catalog of World Paper Money* Vol. 2, general issues, 9th edition, Iola, Wisconsin, 2000, p. 261.
- The denominations of 1, 5, 10, 50 and 100 yuan of the bank note issue of the Central Bank of China with Tibetan overprints are catalogued as

nrs. 216e, 217d, 218f, 219c and 220c. Only the 10 yuan note with Tibetan overprint is illustrated.

7. Rhodes, Nicholas: "Central Bank of China Notes Overprinted in Tibetan." Manuscript. Hythe, Kent, 1997 (published in IBNS Journal?). See footnote 20.
8. Shafer, Neil and Bruce II, Colin R.: *Standard Catalog of World Paper Money Based on the original writings of Albert Pick*. Vol. I, Specialized Issues, 8th edition, Iola, Wisconsin, 1998, p. 371 (notes nrs. S1739 - S1741).
- The half and one yuan note of the Provincial Bank of Xikang are listed and illustrated. The five yuan note is listed as nr. S1741.
9. Smith, Ward D. and Matravers, Brian: *Chinese Banknotes*. Shirjeh Publications. Menlo Park, California, 1970, pp. 71-72 and 100-101.
- Notes of the Central Bank with Tibetan overprints: The 1, 5, 10, 50 and 100 yuan notes with Tibetan overprints are listed, the back of a ten yuan note with Tibetan overprint is illustrated.
- Provincial Bank of Xikang: The half yuan note and the one yuan note are listed and the face of a one yuan specimen note is illustrated. (H75-1 and H75-10).
10. Tie Jun (editor): *Zhi-Bi Tu-Lu* (*Illustrated Catalogue of Paper Money*). Hualing Chubanshe. Beijing, 1993, p. 123.

Three bank notes of Xikang province (1/2, 1 and 5 yuan) with overprints in Tibetan language are illustrated on p. 123. The five yuan note is a specimen without serial numbers.

- 10a. Ting, S.P.: *A Brief illustrated History of Chinese Military Notes and Bonds*. Chung Hsiao Color Printing Co., Taipei, 1982.
- A 1 yuan note of the Central Bank of China with serial number G/Y 850021 and bearing Tibetan overprint is illustrated as number T820-1. The author suggests that notes of the Central Bank of China with Tibetan overprints were used by the Chinese Expeditionary Forces in Burma during the Second World War.
11. Wang Chengzhi: "Si-chuan Zhang-yang" ("The Tibet Silver Coins of Sichuan Province"). In: *Zhong guo*



Fig. 18. 10 yuan note of the Central Bank of China with unprofessionally forged Tibetan overprints. To my knowledge notes of this kind only appeared in the mid 1990s. The overprints of both sides of the note were printed in red, while overprints which are considered as genuine were printed in red on the face of the note and in black on the back. the Tibetan overprint reads "dva yang brgya" (one hundred yuan).



*qian bi* (China Numismatics). 1988, issue 3 (nr. 22), pp. 12-18 and 54.

In 1918 300,000 exchange certificates of 1 yuan for the Sichuan rupee were issued. They were printed in pink, had the size of two match boxes and illustrated a Sichuan rupee. A second issue of exchange certificates took place in 1937 when notes for 9853 yuan were issued and withdrawn later, except for 128 yuan. In order to withdraw the Sichuan Rupees the Bank of Xikang Province issued exchange certificates of a total of 2,100,000 yuan in 1939. They were issued in the denominations of 0.5, 1 and 5 yuan and the exchange rate was 1 yuan = 1 Sichuan rupee. On the face of the green 1 yuan note the Potala is represented. These notes circulated from 1939 to 1941, when notes of a total of 136,350.5 yuan were withdrawn.

**Comment: Examples of the first and second issue mentioned in this article have not been discovered so far. The last mentioned notes are Pick S 1739 - S 1741.**

12. Wang Hengjie: "History of Trade in the Tibetan area belonging to Yunnan" In: *Zhong Guo Zang Xue*, 3 (1990), pp. 81-89.

In autumn 1948, a number of bank notes overprinted in Tibetan appeared on the Shanghai numismatic market. Various attributions of these notes are discussed, and the conclusion reached that they are all forgeries.

13. Wang Songling and Yu Xiangzhen: "Discovery of the Secrets of the so called military notes with Tibetan overprint issued by the Central Bank." In: *Zhong guo qian bi* (China Numismatics). Beijing 1984.4.

A careful examination of the 50 Yuan notes of the Central Bank with Tibetan overprint reveals that they must be modern fabrications, since the authors discovered four different types of overprints in a small block of notes with serial numbers ranging from C/H 160112L to C/H 160690L. The forger is most probably a Mr. Qian Wannan who wrote that these notes are rarities in his "Monography of the Paper Notes of the Central Bank," but who also published an article, signed as "Ansen" and entitled "Short Report

on Collecting Stamps and Coins" in which he declares that the overprinted Central Bank notes are all forgeries. Since they could not find any documentary evidence for the issue of the overprinted notes, the authors think that all values (1, 5, 10, 50 and 100 Yuan) are forgeries.

14. Wang Songling and Yu Xiangzhen: "Guan Yu Zhang Wen Quan' Bu Chung Cai Kao (Additional remarks on the "Paper notes with Tibetan Overprint)." In: *Collection of Papers of the First Annual Meeting of the Numismatic Society of Shanghai* 1985, p. 123.

The authors somewhat revise their opinion expressed in an earlier article following an article by Mr. Bur Wen. They now believe that all 50 Yuan notes with Tibetan overprint are forgeries while there are both genuine and forged notes among the remaining values. Mentions an article in *Ving-Hang-Zhou-Bao* (Bank Weekly) of 2.12.1941 authored by Mr. Dai Mingli, formerly in charge of the coins & bank notes under the Quo Mm Tang regime, who indicated that they were issued in Kangding in 1941 to the value of 10 million yuan.

15. Wu Chouzhong and Gu Wenbing: "Zhong Yang Ying Hang Jia Gai Zhang Wen Quan De Kao Si Yu Nun Ming Ying Hang ha Gai Zhang Wen Quan De Pa Xian (Examination of the Tibetan Bill with Central Bank Stamp and the Discovery of the Tibetan Bill with the Stamp of the Farmers Bank)." In: *Zhongguo Qianbi* (China Numismatics), Beijing 1990, nr. 1, pp. 51 - 54.

A comprehensive survey of all written material about the overprinted notes. Notes with genuine overprints are identified as 1 yuan with K/X and H/Y letters and 10 yuan notes with C/G and F/D. The Farmers Bank notes come in two denominations, 5 & 10 Yuan, with Tibetan denomination "sGor-mo INga" and "sGor-mo bCu," and were issued about 1935.

16. Wu Chouzhong and Wu Thongying: "Sikang Provincial Bank Notes with Tibetan Inscriptions". In: *Zhong guo qian bi* (China Numismatics), Beijing, 1995, nr. I, p. 40.

Most of the information given in

this article is already to be found in the article by Wu Chouzhong & Gu Wenbin (see previous entry). The authors mention that the Provincial Bank of Xikang originally planned to issue notes to the total value of 2,000,000 yuan, but that notes to the value of 2,100,000 yuan were authorized.

- 16a. Wu Keyi: *China Blink Notes Pictorial Catalog. Four-Bank Notes*. Shanghai Scientific and Technological Literature Publishing House. Shanghai 1998.

The values of 5 und 10 Yuan of the Farmers Bank with Tibetan overprints are listed as nrs. 4-3-54 and 4-3-55 (no illustrations). The notes of the Central Bank of China of 1, 5, 10, 50 and 100 yuan are illustrated and described.

Various variants of the 50 and 100 Yuan notes with very dubious Tibetan overprints are illustrated.

17. Xia Wankai: "Banknotes Issued by the Central Bank." In: *Zhong Bi Hui Kan* (Journal of Chinese Numismatics), vol. 1 (1.1.1947).

This is one of the earliest Chinese articles which records the notes of the Central Bank with Tibetan overprints.

17. Xu Feng & Thao Longye: *Catalogue of the Banknotes of the Provincial Banks of the Different Provinces of China after 1911* (*Zhong Guo Ge Sheng Di Fang Yin Hang Zhi Bi Tu Lu* 1911 *Man Yi Hou*), Beijing 1992, pp. 76-77 Sikang Province.

Apart from the well known Xikang issues with Tibetan legends issued in Kangding between 1939 and 1941, a 2 Jiao (20 cent) note of 1949 is described and pictured. This latter note does not have an inscription in Tibetan.

18. Zhang Zhi Zhong: *Chinese Paper Money* (*Zhong Guo Zhi Bi*). Tianjin, 1996.

Issues for Sikang, including those with Tibetan legends, are illustrated on pp. 435-436 and briefly described on pp. 703-704.

19. Zhang Zhi Zhong: *Zhong Guo Jin Dai Zhi Bi, Piac Quan Tu Jian* (Illustrated Catalogue of Chinese modern Banknotes and Loan Certificates. Beijing 1997.

Two notes of the Farmers Bank of





Fig. 19. 50 yuan note of the Central Bank of China with forged Tibetan overprints.



Fig. 20. 100 yuan note of the Central Bank of China with dubious Tibetan overprints.

China (issued in 1935) of 5 and 10 yuan with Tibetan overprints sgor—mo inga and sgor-mo bcu are illustrated as nr. 1125 and 1126.

20. Thu Sihuang: *Ming Guo Jing Ji Si* (Economic History of the Republic of China). Printer: Bai Song. Shanghai 1948.

According to Wu Chou Zhong and Gu Wenbin (see above nr. 15) the fourth chapter of this rare book discusses the overprinting with Tibetan legends of the 1936 bank note issue of the Central bank of China. The overprints were applied to the 1, 5 and 10 yuan notes in 1941 in order to forward these to the Kangding branch of the Central Bank of China.

#### Footnotes:

- 1: cf. Barnett, Doak A.: *China on the Eve of Communist Takeover*. Reprint: Westview Press, Boulder and London, 1985 [first published by Frederick A. Prager, 1963], p. 218.
- 2: cf. Pick, Albert, *Standard Catalogue of World Paper Money* (edited by N. Shafer & Colin R. Bruce II), volume I, Specialized Issues, Eighth Edition, Iola, Wisconsin 1998, p. 371, a S1739 - S1741. The American authors Smith

and Matravers illustrate the face of a 1 Yuan specimen note (serial nr. A 0000000). They only mention the denominations of 1/2 and one yuan. The five yuan note was discovered subsequently and till nowadays can be considered as rare. Smith, Ward D. and Matravers, Brian: *Chinese Banknotes*. Shirjeh Publishers. Menlo Park, California, 1970, p. 101, nr. H75-10.

The late Karl Gabrisch, a collector from Germany, acquired specimen notes of 1 und 5 Yuan in the following auction: Spink-Taisei, *Hongkong Coin Auction, Catalogue 13*, Hongkong 3 September 1992, lot 830. The green 1 yuan note has the serial number A000000 and the brown 5 yuan note is without serial number. The same lot included an almost uncirculated 1/2 yuan note with the serial number D0021956. This note was illustrated and described by Karl Gabrisch in his book *Geld aus Tibet*, (Winterthur and Rikon, 1990), p. 105.

- 3: Wu Chouzhong and Wu Zhongying: "Sikang Provincial Bank Notes with Tibetan Inscriptions." In: *China Numismatics*, (*Zhong guo qian in*), Beijing, 1995, Nr. 1, p. 40.

- 4: It is reported for Kangding that in about 1940 12 ounces of butter could be bought for one silver yuan, while one "Fa-bi" yuan bought only 8 ounces. Cf. He Jue Fei: *Historical Poems about Xikang*, chapter 24: Xikang Huobi (The Currency of Xikang). Lhasa 1988.

- 5: Wang Chengzhi: "Si chuan zhang yang" (The Tibet Silver Coins of Sichuan). In: *Zhong guo qian bi* (China Numismatics), Issue 3, Beijing 1988, pp. 12-18 and 54.
- 6: Wu Chou Zhong and Gu Wenbin: "Zhong Yang Ying Hang Jia Gai Zhang Wen Quan De Kao Si Yu Nun Ming Ying Hang Jia Gai Zhang Wen Quan De Fa Xian" (Examination of the bank notes issued by the Central Bank overprinted in Tibetan and the discovery of the bank notes of the Farmers Bank Overprinted in Tibetan). In: *Zhong guo qian bi* (China Numismatics), Nn 28, Issue 1, Beijing 1990, pp. 51-54 and plate.
- 7: *Standard Catalog of World Paper Money* (edited by N. Shafer & Colin R. Bruce II), vol. II General Issues, 9th edition, Iola, Wisconsin, 2000, p. 278



- 8: Smith, Ward D. and Matravers, Brian: *Chinese Banknotes*. Shirjeh Publishers. Menlo Park, California, 1970, pp. 161-162. Two of these notes are illustrated (nrs. S23-110 and S23-70). Some of the "Central Bank of China" notes also show side panels; see illustrations nr. C305-24b, C305-27a and C305-26b (pp. 88-89).
- 9: Erwin Beyer reports that he has copies of documents which show that some notes issued by the Farmers Bank in 1941 were going to receive the overprint "Chongqing" (letter to Colin Narbeth, dated September 1999).
- 10: Wu Keyi: *Zhong Guo Zhi Bi Tu Jian Mu Lu. Si Hang Tong Chao (China Bank Notes Pictorial Catalog. Four-Bank Notes)*. Shanghai Scientific and Technological Literature Publishing House. Shanghai 1998.
- On pp. 327-330 of this work 5 yuan notes of the Farmers Bank with the overprinted figures 6, 7, 11, 14, 16 and 112 as well as 10 yuan notes with the overprinted figures 12, 49 and 62 are illustrated. The same figures are also printed on the backs of the notes where there are no panels to accommodate them.
- 11: In a letter to Colin Narbeth of September 1999 Erwin Beyer mentions a book by Wu Chou Zong, which was published in Shanghai in 1988, in which notes of 1, 5 and 10 yuan of the Farmers Bank with Tibetan overprints are mentioned but not illustrated.
- A bank note catalog by Zhang Zhi Zhong (see *Commented Bibliography* nr. 19) illustrates the same 5 yuan note with Tibetan overprint which is pictured in the above mentioned article by Wu Chou Zhong und Gu Wenbin (see footnote 6) and which was acquired recently by Colin Narbeth. The same catalog also illustrates a ten yuan note which has the serial nr. B393812.
- The 5 und 10 yuan notes of the Farmers Bank with Tibetan overprints are listed as nrs. 4-3-54 and 4-3-55 in the work by Wu Keyi mentioned in footnote 10, but they are not illustrated.
- 12: see footnote 11.
- 13: see Zhang Zhi Zhong, *op. cit.* (footnote 11), p. 531.
- 14: "Tibetan Notes to Circulate" *The Numismatist*, Vol. 53 (1940), p. 439.
- 15: Tibetan: *Ban ques Chinoises A Tatsienlou*. In: *La Revue Nationale Chinoise*, Vol. XLIII, No. 139, Juli 1941, pp. 93-95.
- 16: "Tibetan Bank Notes" *The Numismatist*, Vol. 55 (1942), p. 27 (see bibliography nr. 2).
- 17: Wu Chou Zhong und Gu Wenbin, *op. cit.* (footnote 6). The source mentioned by these authors is a book which was issued for the 30th anniversary of the journal *Ying Hang Zhou Bao* (Bank Weekly) in Shanghai in January 1948, Zhu Sihuang being its chief editor. The title of the book is *Ming Guo Jing Ji Si (Economic history of the Republic of China)*. Details regarding the Central Bank notes with Tibetan overprints are discussed in the fourth chapter of this book which is edited by Li Rongting.
- 18: Pick, Albert, *op. cit.* Vol. II, General Issues, p. 261. In this catalog all denominations of the 1936 bank note series of the Central Bank of China with Tibetan overprints are listed. The 50 yuan note, listed as nr. 219c is designated as "controversial" in a footnote.
- There are only two catalogues known to me which give both descriptions and illustrations of all values (i.e. 1, 5, 10, 50 and 100 yuan) of the Central Bank notes with Tibetan overprints: 1. Mao, King 0.: *History of Chinese Paper Currency Issued by the Central Bank of China. From 1923-1949*, Vol. 1, Hongkong 1968, pp. 170, 171, 174, 175, 182, 183, 190, 191, 195 and 196. The author of this work does not mention that the overprints on the bank notes which he illustrates are dubious. 2. Wu Keyi, *op. cit.* (footnote 10).
- 19: I cannot agree with the Chinese author Bur Wen (see *Commented Bibliography* nr. 4) who claims that 100 yuan notes with Tibetan overprints were issued after November 1941, since there was only limited demand for 1 and 5 yuan notes. While there may have been little demand for any type of bank note, notes of smaller denomination were certainly more popular than those of higher value.
- 20: An attempt to distinguish between genuine and forged Tibetan overprints found on notes of the Central Bank of China was made by Nicholas Rhodes who makes use of earlier efforts in this respect made by Chinese authors. Cf. Rhodes, Nicholas: "Central Bank of China Notes Overprinted in Tibetan." Manuscript. Hythe, Kent, 1997.
- 21: letter from Nicholas Rhodes, dated 7th August 2001.
- 22: Guibaut, André: *Tibetan Venture. In the Country of the Ngolo-Setas*. Readers Union/John Murray, London. 1949, pp. 14-15.
- 23: Gabrisch, Karl, *Geld aus Tibet*, Winterthur und Rikon, 1990, p. 105.
- 24: see in the *Commented Bibliography* under Wang Chengzhi (nr. 11).
- 25: Wu Chouzhong and Wu Zhongying: *op. cit.* (footnote 3).

#### Source of illustrations:

Figure 1: Guibaut, André: *Tibetan Venture. In the Country of the Ngolo-Setas*. Readers Union/John Murray, London, 1949.

Figure 3 and 6: Elisabeth Gabrisch

Figure 4, 5, 7 and 13: Colin Narbeth

Figure 12: Emil Schneider-von Euw

All other bank notes and coins which are illustrated are from the collection of the author.

The following persons kindly provided valuable information or copies of bank notes from their collections: Erwin Beyer, Elisabeth Gabrisch, Colin Narbeth, Nicholas G. Rhodes, Emil Schneider-von Euw und Bhupendra Narayan Shrestha. I wish to thank all of them for their kind co-operation.



# Happy Notes from a Happy Island

by Hans A. Hoogendoorn, I.B.N.S. #8395

A numismatic museum of your own—isn't that every collector's dream? Some people can make that dream come true. J. Mario Odor, in November 1981 opened his private *Museo Numismatico* in Oranjestad, capital of the Caribbean island of Aruba. Until his death in 2001 he acquired and displayed an astonishing collection of more than 35,000 coins and notes from 400 countries, probably the greatest numismatic collection in the Caribbean. The museum in the little green house is walking distance from the main shopping area and the pier that hosts at least one cruise ship a day, has the charm of every private museum. Intimate and amazing at the same time, a splendid survey of numismatic history throughout the ages.

Of course there is only a limited number of items that refer to Mr. Odor's home country. Aruba is the youngest nation in the western hemisphere. It started issuing coins and notes on January 1, 1986, the day on which the island separated from the Netherlands Antilles, a former Dutch colony that (like Surinam on the South American Continent) formed an autonomous region within the Kingdom of the Netherlands since the introduction of the Statute of the Kingdom in 1954. Surinam became an independent republic in 1975, Aruba achieved a *status aparte* in 1986. This means that the island state is a self-governing unit (just like the remaining five islands of the Netherlands Antilles). Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands is the head of state — the local airport bears her name — and the Dutch government is responsible for defence and foreign affairs. In all other fields the Aruban government is free to operate in accordance with the decisions of the parliament in

Oranjestad. The official language is Dutch, but the mother tongue of the native Arubans is Papiamentu, a remarkable mixture of Spanish and Portuguese with Dutch and English influences.

What strikes the bank note collector is that the Aruban notes present wonderful designs. The national currency is the *Aruban florin* (AWG, Afl), commonly known as *gulden* or *guilder*. The first notes (Pick #1-5) showed a certain resemblance to the *Antillean gulden* the Arubans shared with their neighbours until the date of separation. In 1990 the Centrale Bank van Aruba presented a new series of notes (Pick # 6-10), designed by Evelino Fingal and printed (like the previous notes) by Johan Enschedé & Zoon in Haarlem, Netherlands. In both series the denominations were 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100 florins. In 1996 a slightly new variety was introduced (Pick #11-15), the only difference being the addition of the words *wettig betaalmiddel* (Dutch for 'legal tender').

The new notes show species of local fauna: a sea turtle on the 5 florins note, an Indian snail on AWG 10, a casabel snake on AWG 25, a shoco owl on AWG 50 and a frog on AWG 100. Not unusual for bank notes, but what makes the Aruban florins so interesting is the intricate patterns on either side of each note that are unmistakably of Indian origin. That reminds us of the fact that the majority of the Arubans (over 75%) are of Indian origin, contrary to the inhabitants of the other islands in the Dutch Caribbean, whose ancestors came as slaves to Curaçao, Bonaire and the Windward Islands of Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten. The notes tell the earliest history of the island.

The first Europeans to visit Aruba

and the other islands off the Venezuelan coast were Spaniards, who arrived shortly after 1500 AD. They found only a limited number of Indians there, who had immigrated from the mainland. The Spaniards described the islands as 'useless' (*islas inútiles*), deported the Indian population to their colony Hispaniola (present-day Haiti/Dominican Republic) and left the islands uninhabited. A new limited wave of immigrants followed and when the first Dutch merchant ships anchored off Aruba in 1636, they found only 'a handful of Indians and some Spaniards.' The latter were forced to leave and the three islands were added to the overseas possessions of the prosperous Dutch Republic. Curaçao became a major slave trading port, but Aruba, too dry for agriculture, never had any important plantations. The island was meant as a cattle and horse growing centre for Dutch settlers on Curaçao. Indians were excellent farm hands and the few Europeans on Aruba only had a limited number of house slaves.

Even now some traces of Indian settlements can be found in remote places on the island. But more important are the prehistoric paintings on the ceilings of caves in the Arikok National Park and in places of shelter in the Ayo rocks. Neither archaeologists nor historians have so far been able to determine the purpose of these paintings. No humans or animals are visible, only geometric patterns. They probably had some relation to religious practices. The Arubans are proud of their Indian origin and some country houses have been decorated with patterns that resemble the cave drawings. Some locals proudly show similar tattoos and the local artist who designed the bank note found



his inspiration in the same sources.

Aruba presents itself as *one happy island* - the slogan can be found on t-shirts and license plates. Should you ever have the opportunity to visit this perfect holiday destination, don't forget to call at the numismatic museum, that is now operated by Mr Odor's widow and daughter (Mo-Fr, but phone in advance: 828831, it is still a private matter). Visitors from the US should not worry about changing money. The dollar is accepted almost everywhere. But when you do change, you will be the proud owner of some of the finest bank notes in the Americas.

## Fijian Rarities

by Dr K.A. Rodgers LM-#76

Before Ratu (King) Cakobau ceded the Fiji islands to Britain in 1874, the country lacked a stable and controlled currency. Coin was scarce. What there was consisted largely of debased South American silver. Paper reigned supreme, particularly during 1860-1870 when a cotton boom fuelled ill-founded hope in the future of the islands. The issues comprised a motley collection of bills of exchange, checks drawn on colonial banks in Australia and New Zealand, notes of hand, drafts, IOUs, and promissory notes issued by both Cakobau's government and local traders. On the whole, the business notes were considered to be the most secure, or at least the best of a bad bunch.

A remarkable number of the private promissory notes have survived mould, silverfish and the turbulent times that were precession Fiji. As in most collecting areas, those that surface tend to be the same old friends, used to illustrate romantic stories of old Fiji *ad nauseam*. Occasionally a rarity pops out of a passing notaphilic black hole. Two have materialized in recent years: one from arguably, the best known, and least successful of European trading families — F & W. Hennings, the other from the first enterprise to attempt to farm the infertile hills and swamps that were to become Suva.

As in the case of many Pacific islands in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, an informal dual currency operated in Fiji, prior to British colonial rule. A dollar/cent system, descended directly from the once ubiquitous Spanish-colonial piece of eight reales and its successor, the debased Chilean peso, existed side-by-side with sterling. The universal exchange rate was nominally \$1= 4/-

Stg i.e. £Stg = \$5. Pesos and all other post-colonial South American silver pieces were termed dollars by the Pacific locals.

### F. & W. Hennings

The brothers Hennings figure large in most accounts of 19<sup>th</sup> century European settlement and trade in Fiji. Between them the siblings were deeply involved in King Cakobau's precession government, connived to bring that government down, married into Fijian nobility, petitioned Britain to annex the islands, advocated white supremacy, acted as agents for prominent, neo-imperial German merchants, and, most importantly, were one of the largest and least successful traders and entrepreneurs in Fiji before, during and after annexation.

The brothers hailed from Bremen, Germany. The eldest of the clan, Frederic William, came to Fiji from Apia in the late 1850s, to act as an agent for the German company, J.C. Godeffroy & Sons. He was soon followed by William and Gustave. Between them they established trading stores in places strategic for European plantation development: Frederic set up in Levuka, the *de facto* capital of Cakobau's Fiji, Gustav on the largest Fijian island in the fertile Rewa river delta, and William at Lomaloma in the Lau (Windward) Islands where Cakobau's rival, the Tongan viceroy Ma'afu, ruled supreme.

Lomaloma became the Hennings' home base and 99.9% of Hennings' promissory notes offered for sale in recent years, as well as those present in private and museum collections, and show a banner "LOMA LOMA, WINDWARD ISLANDS, FIJI" across the top of each note's face. They are all denominated in dollars, while





1/4 dollar (1/-stg) private promissory issue, Brewer & Joske, Suva, payable 1 January 1873; serial no 371. Approx 75x55 mm overall; black on white.

many of those issued by other Fijian entrepreneurs were denoted in pounds to give the illusion that they were backed by sterling. Given that Hennings was backed by Godeffroys, and that this Hamburg-based firm was the principal importer of debased Chilean pesos into the Pacific in the 1870s, the use of dollar denominations by Hennings has a certain cogency.

In contrast to the Lomaloma issues, the rather battered relic illustrated, is a promissory issue of Hennings sourced on Levuka, the principal European settlement in Fiji at this time. Ultra-violet (black) light examination suggests the partly faded signature is different from that of the Lomaloma issues and it may well be the only known example to come from Frederic's store. The crude printing, compared with the engraved Lomaloma issues, is typical of contemporary local productions, perhaps done in something of a hurry with little care and less thought. The giving of the value as "1\$" is unusual among contemporary Fijian paper. Cer-

tainly, its date (11 March 1871) is earlier than the 1872 dates common among extant Lomaloma notes.

#### Brewer & Joske, Suva

In the balmy days of 1868 William Harry O'Halloran Brewer and Paul Joske obtained Cakobau's permission to set up shop in Suva, at a time long before the peninsula had become a gleam in a colonial town-planner's eye. They were the first European planters of any size to consider the potential of the Suva peninsula and here they planted cotton and sugar cane, setting up both a cotton gin and the country's first sugar mill.

Brewer and Joske issued promissory notes, payable at the firm's offices in Suva. They opted to run with both the hares and the hounds and issued notes denoted in sterling as well as in dollars and fractional dollars. However, their financial situation could not have been helped when, in 1872, the Fiji Chamber of Commerce, centred on Levuka, passed a resolution that its members not accept notes payable in any place



One dollar (4/-stg) private promissory issue, F. & W. Hennings, Levuka, 211 March 1871; no serial no. Approx 108x70 mm overall; design 80x55 mm; black on ivory.

other than Levuka, that all notes payable on demand must be payable in sterling, and that the sterling amount be shown on the face of each note.

Notes of Brewer and Joske for 2 1/2 dollars are not uncommon. They are known both issued (signed) and unissued. Intriguingly, 90% have a serial 30##, as if they all came from the same bundle. A 1 1/4 dollar (1/-) of similar design is known but is much rarer. Distinctive features on both values include their dominant sepia color, the denomination being shown in shaded circles at the top left and right of the note's face, and a vignette of canoes, coconut palms and a Fijian at top centre. The payable date printed on both denominations is an unspecified day in October 1871 as it is on a rare £1 denomination of identical design but printed in blue on white paper.

In contrast is the issued 1/4 dollar note illustrated which surfaced in New Zealand in the mid 1990s. The printed payable date is 1 January 1873 and the design is quite different from the 1871 issues. No central vignette is present and the value



occurs in rectangular shaded diamonds at top right and left. Differences also occur in the banner heading (all caps) and the B&J monogram (broader than it is high). The existence of this note suggests that other denominations of similar design might exist for the firm.

In 1873 there was room for optimism in the Brewer and Joske households. 460 acres of cane had been planted and a good crop looked as if it might materialize in 1874. Indeed it did. Ten tons of sugar were sent to Australia that year. Alas the fertility of the thin Suva soils could not be sustained and, despite branching out into rum production, the whole venture collapsed c. 1875 with debts of over £30,000. Brewer committed suicide but Joske stayed on in Fiji and eventually formed a new partnership in the firm Brown & Joske, commission agents, auctioneers and general merchants.

#### Reference

Rodgers, K.A. & Cantrell, C. *Paper money of Fiji I: A catalog of paper money and related items in the repositories of the Fiji Museum and the National Archives of Fiji with a note on items on display at the Bank of New Zealand, Suva*. International Bank Note Society, 1989, Dallas, Texas, 132pp.

## The Kings of Swaziland on Bank Notes

by Henry B. Heath, I.B.N.S.#3123

### Historical background

Swaziland is a very small landlocked kingdom in southern Africa bordered on the north, west and south by the Republic of South Africa and on the east by Mozambique. Formerly a colony of Great Britain, since 1968 it has been recognized as an independent country within the British Commonwealth. From vague beginnings as a tribal region in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century its growth, as in many other similar areas on this continent, depended on the aggressive colonization of its powerful ruling family the Dlamini dynasty who dominated the mixed Ngunwane, Embo and Nguni peoples living in the region. By the 1760/70s the then ruler Ngunwane III gained the upper hand over the local chiefdoms and established the first Swazi realm. It was his grandson, Subhuza I (ruled c.1810-1838) who greatly expanded his territory southward and established the first recognizable kingdom. Intertribal war was fierce and inevitable and Subhuza was forced to cede territory. Eventually he settled and subjugated the tribes further north in the Ezulwini (place of heaven) valley which is central to the present Swaziland. It was his

successor, Mswati I (also spelled Mswazi from which the country is named) who became king in 1840 supported by the powerful Queen Mother, Thandile who created a stable kingdom with an organized infrastructure and a trained army capable of defending the country against the warring Zulus. However border conflicts with the surrounding Boer republics in the Transvaal continued and the present borders were eventually established in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

King Mswati I was succeeded by a weak King Mbandzeni (1875-1889) who, without understanding just what he was handing to unscrupulous foreigners, not only sold mineral rights to English colonial developers and land leases to Boer farmers but ceded power to a white Governing Committee. When Mbandzeni died, in the absence of a direct successor, control passed first to a joint British, Boer and Swazi Government Committee then in 1894 to the then Union of South Africa before becoming the responsibility of the British High Commissioner in South Africa in 1906. For the following forty years under colonial rule from Great Britain the local king had few powers but in



Swaziland P1.  
1 lilangeni Kg. Sobhuza II



Back P1. Nine royal princesses and two younger persons in ceremonial dance.





Swaziland P2. 2 emalangeni Kg. Sobhuza II

1944 the British government reviewed the situation and re-established the authority of the king as Paramount Chief. Prior to independence the then king, Sobhuza II, wished to revert to an absolute monarchy but the British would not agree to this and insisted on rule through an elected parliament. King Sobhuza II formed his own political party which won the elections of 1967 and the country became independent in 1968 and is a member of the Commonwealth. Following the 1973 election King Sobhuza II dismissed parliament and assumed full power as an absolute monarch so becoming the *de facto* ruler as Chief of State with a parliament largely of his choice, all political parties being banned.

King Sobhuza II, who reigned for 61 years, died in 1982. This triggered

a bitter power struggle to determine which of his sons should succeed and which wife should act as queen regent. Prince Makhosetive was chosen as Crown Prince and being under age his favorite wife Princess Dzeline assumed the title of Queen Mother Ntomi and acted as regent until 1986 when the prince reached the age of 18 and acceded as King Mswati III. Continuing political unrest over constitutional problems has so far marked the king's reign but this is a gentle country and is now benefiting from modern tourism.

#### Currency and Bank Notes

With independence from colonial rule Swaziland established its own Monetary Authority which issued bank notes from 1974 to 1981 when the government owned Central



Back P2. sugar factory

Bank of Swaziland took over control. South African currency is widely used and is legal tender throughout the country. The unit of currency is the Emalangeni (E) (singular Lilangeni) divided into 100 cents. As Swaziland is a member (with Lesotho and Rep. South Africa) of the southern African monetary union Emalangeni have a value at par with the South African Rand. Most international trade is with the Republic of South Africa.

Bank notes are signed by the Minister of Finance and the Governor of the Bank of Swaziland.

#### Portraiture.

##### King Sobhuza II (1899-1982)

Originally called *Nkhotfotjeni* (stone lizard) he was selected by the local chiefs to succeed his father Bhunu (King Ngwane V) as heir to

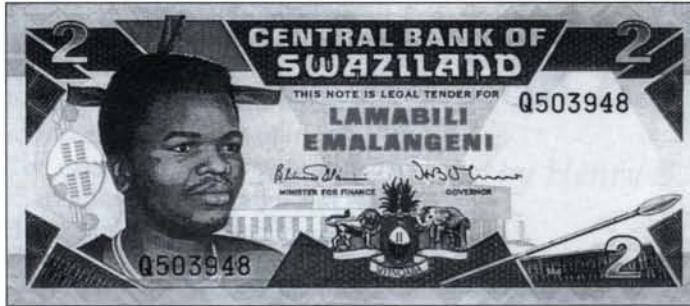


Swaziland P13. 5 emalangeni. Young King Mswati III (1987)

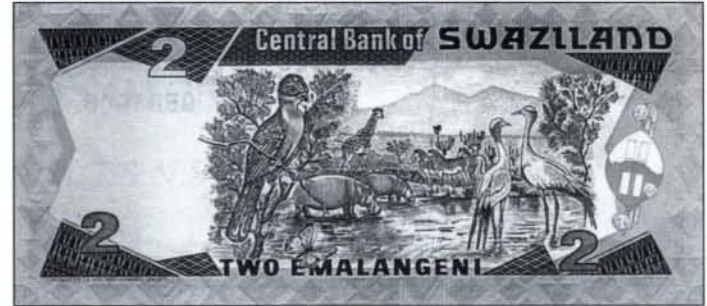


Back P14. Line of Swazi warriors in ceremonial dress with assagais.





Swaziland 18. 2 emalangeni. King Mswati III (1992)



Back P18. Collection of wild life.

the throne when only five months old. For the following twenty years the country was ruled by his powerful grandmother, Labotsibeni acting as Queen Regent. His early education was in Swaziland but later he attended the Lovedale Institute in Cape Province, South Africa.

In 1921 Queen Labotsibeni handed over power to her grandson and he became the constitutional ruler of the Swazi and was known as *Ngwenyama* (the lion), King Sobuza II. His reign is generally regarded as being successful but Sobuza II was a traditionalist but still a modern politician who unified his country, redeemed large tracts of leased territory and handed control to local tribal leaders. He even travelled to London in 1922 to seek the help of the British government in his endeavors. He regained all mineral rights which are now held in trust by the king for the exclusive use of the Swazi people. His fight with the British government over independence proved protracted and difficult as he wished to revert to a traditional absolute monarchy. In gaining independence he had to accept limited powers and rule through an elected parliament. This most certainly did not suit King Sobhuza at all, he was not called "the lion" for nothing, and being quite intolerant of opposition after the second free election he ignored the results, disbanded parliament and formed a parliament of his own choosing having banned all political parties as being contrary to the

accepted Swazi way of life. He continued his somewhat oppressive rule as an absolute monarch until he died in 1982 by which time he was the world's longest reigning monarch.

King Sobuza II was renowned as a family man if ever there was one for officially he had 70 wives and some 210 children (although much higher figures of offspring are sometimes quoted). His excellent health, undoubted fertility and close marital ties with the other major families did much to unify the country and meant that about a quarter of the population could claim some relationship to the monarch and the Dlamini tribe. Indeed this is a familiar surname throughout the country. After his death his son Prince Makhosetive was eventually chosen as Crown Prince.

#### Portraits:

#### Monetary Authority of Swaziland

Issue 1974-78 (undated) P1-5. Bust of King Sobuza II at left facing quarter right, with normal Afro-hair style with three ceremonial feathers at back centre and on either side, moustache and pointed beard, wearing a necklace with two square pendants, against a background of the cowhide shield and assegais motive on the Swaziland flag at centre and an outline of the Parliament House at bottom right. A spear or wooden club is inclined at right.

#### Central Bank of Swaziland

Issue 1981 Commemorative of the Diamond Jubilee of King Sobuza

II. P6-7. Issue 1982/1983 (undated) P8-11.

The design of the front of these notes remains similar but some notes have a spear at right and others a type of wooden club inclined at varying angles at right.

A collector series of notes issued by the Monetary Authority of Swaziland 1974 are similar to P1-5 with a Maltese cross preceding the number and bearing the word SPECIMEN.

#### King Mswati III (1968 - )

Known as *Makhosetive* (King of all Nations) he was selected to be Crown Prince following the death of his father King Sobhuza II (1982). As a royal prince he had joined the Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force as a boy cadet at the very early age of five. He received his early education at the Masundvwini Royal School (1976-83) before coming to Dorset, England to the Sherborne School. He returned home and was crowned as King Mswati III in April 1986 when he was 18 years of age.

In spite of considerable pressure to institute constitutional change, King Mswati III refused to introduce a multi-party democratic state and insisted on remaining as head of state and absolute monarch. He has since made some concessions such as secret ballots, the release of political prisoners and has promised to review constitutional change but to date little has changed and there is still some political unrest in his otherwise peaceful and beautiful country.





P24a. 10 emalangeni. King Mswati III (1995)



Back P14. Hydroelectric plant at Luphohlo with bird at left.

## Portraits

### Central Bank of Swaziland

Issue 1986 (undated) P12 Bust of King Mzwati III facing forward at left, normal Afro hair-style with three ceremonial feathers at back centre and on either side, clean shaven wearing necklace with two square pendants. Shield and spears bank seal at left, note value on central cowhide shield and assegais design with an elephant design at centre bottom, a wooden club inclined at right.

Issue 1986,1987 (undated) P13-16. Bust of the young King Mzwati III facing forward as in P12 with shield and spears bank seal at left, outline of Parliament House at centre right, coat of arms at centre bottom and a spear or wooden club inclined at bottom right.

Issue 1989 P 17. Commemorative of the 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday of King Mzwati III as P16.

Issue 1990; 1992(undated) P 18-21. New bust of King Mzwati III, a little older and fuller-faced, smiling, at left facing half right, with normal Afro hair-style, small moustache, wearing heavier necklace with two square pendants, shield and spear bank seal at left, outline of Parliament House centre right, coat of arms centre bottom with inclined spear or club at right.

Issue 1995-98 (dated) P23-25; P26 and 27 with OVD strip at right. Same portrait and design as P18.

Issue 1998 Commemorative of 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence.

P28 same portrait and design as P18.

### Vignettes on back

The earlier bank notes (1974-78) carry vignettes with different subjects depending on note's face value on the back:

1 lilangeni note shows a line of nine princesses each with a stellate halo, topless with very skimpy skirts and colorful trains taking part in a ceremonial dance. Two much younger figures are also present. Tribal dancing is traditional in Swaziland and King Sobuza himself joined in a ritual ceremony wearing full native dress in 1966.

2 emalangeni note has an aerial view of a sugar factory. Sugar cane is a major food crop and the refined product is an important export.

5 emalangeni note shows high mountain scenery in the western region and the Mantenga Falls.

10 emalangeni note pictures an asbestos mine. Asbestos although still very important is a declining export in view of the health dangers associated with its use.

20 emalangeni note is a montage of agricultural products including pineapples, cattle and various fruits.

From the 1986 issue the subjects were changed as follows:

2 emalangeni shows a collection of animals around a water-hole including giraffe, zebra, hippopotamus, birds and a butterfly.

5 emalangeni depicts a line of native warriors in traditional dress, bare footed, carrying long assegais.

10 emalangeni is a picture of the hydroelectric plant at Luphohlo on the right and a bird on the left. The production of electricity has made the country less dependent on the Republic of South Africa.

20 emalangeni shows a forestry road and a timber-laden truck with cattle grazing in the foreground and a pineapple, maize and vegetables completing the design. Extensive pine forests were established during the colonial period.

50 emalangeni is a vignette of the main offices of the Central Bank of Swaziland in Mbabane.

100 emalangeni (issued in 1996) is a vignette of a huge rock formation with surrounding trees.

200 emalangeni (issued 1998) shows Swazi villagers around typical thatched, circular, domed and fenced huts.

All these notes carry the shield and spears bank seal at the right.

### Additional reading

For those who would like to read more about Swaziland there are two fascinating and magnificently illustrated articles in the National Geographic magazine:-  
1969 August issue Swaziland tries independence. Volkar Wentzel.  
1978 January issue Zulu king marries a Swazi princess. Volkar Wentzel.

### Acknowledgments

The author gratefully acknowledges with thanks the biographical data derived from the Britannica 2001 DVD



# The Notes of the Rif Revolt

by Peter Symes, I.B.N.S. #4245

The Rif Revolt is one of the more astonishing bids for self-determination by a people bearing the yoke of colonialism. That it failed to achieve its primary aim, is a matter of history that passes over numerous achievements of the leaders of the revolt. However, despite the importance of the Revolt in its own time, this slice of history probably appears in few modern history texts.

The Rif Revolt occurred between 1921 and 1926 in northern Morocco. The colonial power involved in the war was Spain and the people seeking self-determination were the Rifi and Jibala tribes of northern Morocco. Of interest to bank note enthusiasts are two notes that were prepared for issue by the 'State Bank of the Riff'. As it transpires, the notes were not actually issued by the Government of the Rif, but were prepared for issue by Captain C. A. P. Gardiner, a British adventurer and gunrunner.

In the modern history of Morocco, the year 1904 was a watershed. In that year Great Britain and France signed the Anglo-French agreement, which gave France control of Morocco. For many years Great Britain had supported the Moorish Empire of Morocco, but since the death of Sultan Mulai Hassan in 1894, the empire of the Moors had crumbled to the point where it could no longer be recognized as a single entity. Britain had no pretensions to the area formerly controlled by the Moors, but the French had designs on this region between Algeria, which was already under their control, and the Atlantic.

For some time the French had made life difficult for Britain in Egypt. Having just finished the war in South Africa and looking for a period of peace, Britain proposed to

France that the British would withdraw their support for the Sultan of Morocco and support France's bid to control Morocco, if France allowed Britain a free hand in Egypt. France agreed and in 1904 the Anglo-French agreement was signed.

For hundreds of years Spain had controlled areas of northern Morocco, most notably the 'Presidios', or enclaves, of Ceuta, Peñon de la Gomera, Alhucemas and Melilla. In recognition of this presence, Clause 8 of the Anglo-French Agreement stipulated that the accord take into account this presence. This clause was as much a recognition by both parties of Spain's lengthy presence in this area, as a desire by Britain to ensure that France had no control over the Straits of Gibraltar.

As a result of Clause 8, France and Spain negotiated a frontier in northern Morocco, giving Spain control of the very north of Morocco, while France controlled the majority of the country. With Spain having established its own zone, Spain then ratified the Anglo-French agreement on 3 October 1904.

French control over Morocco was recognized by Germany in 1911 and in March 1912 Sultan Mulai Hafid signed a treaty in which he recognized a French Protectorate over Morocco. The Spanish Zone was never questioned in these agreements. In effect, France controlled the Spanish Zone, but allowed Spain to administer the Zone under the agreement signed between France and Spain in 1904. Once Protectorate status had been attained in 1912, France and Spain negotiated, and then signed, the Franco-Spanish Treaty of 1912. Under this Treaty France passed full responsibility of the Spanish Zone to Spain.

The Spanish Zone consisted of

two major areas, the Rif in the East and the Jibala in the West. Separated from the French protectorate by the Rif Mountains, the northern people had developed, to a certain extent, separately to the people of the south. This was particularly true of the people of the Rif.

There have been a number of ethnological studies into the people of the Rif. This Berber people is a pale-skinned race more akin to the inhabitants of Europe than North Africa. There are many 'Celtic' aspects to their physiognomy, with many individuals having red hair and light eyes. Alongside these inhabitants are dark-skinned people. Speculation as to the mix of blood has suggested that the fair-skinned Berbers are descendants of the Vandals, while the dark-skinned elements are contributed by a people from the west of North Africa, possibly of Semitic origin.

As well as being of a different ethnic mix to their brothers in southern Morocco, and there were other differences. Vincent Sheean, an American journalist who visited the Rif during the Revolt, noted that the people of the Rif were much cleaner and more orderly in their personal habits than the people of the South – noting particularly their clothes and their habitats.

When Spain had taken control of their zone in Morocco, they had given limited thought to subduing the people of the interior, who had long since given only nominal acknowledgment to the Sultans of Morocco and who remained largely independent in their own country. The first efforts of the Spanish to enforce their influence outside the Presidios was in 1909, when mining interests required support to develop iron mines. During these



efforts to establish its influence, Spain suffered several military defeats, which delayed the successful outcome of the venture. The uneasy relationship between the native population of the Spanish Zone and their Spanish rulers continued in the ensuing years.

During World War I Germany exploited the absence of control in the Spanish Zone by trying to raise the local tribes against the French in the south. While the Germans largely had a free hand in their activities, they had negligible success. After the Great War, Spain slowly began to spread her influence in the territory. An army of approximately 63,000 troops was established in the Spanish Zone, of whom roughly 12,000 were native soldiers. A program of expansion was conducted by building a series of small forts and blockhouses, all supported from garrisons in the Presidios and other coastal towns that had come under Spanish control. These fortifications were regarded with some, but not total, indifference by the local tribes. On occasions the local tribesmen engaged the Spanish, but the disturbances were minor.

The Rif was populated by many tribes who generally acted only in their own interests. There were rarely any agreements binding the tribes, apart from occasional alliances, while inter-tribal disturbances continued at irregular intervals. Without a unified front, the fragmented opposition to the Spanish caused little threat to the colonial power; although the dislike for the Spanish fermented amongst all tribes. One of the larger tribes in the Rif was the Aith Waryagher, located in the east of the Spanish Zone. It was from this tribe that significant opposition to the Spanish finally

arose with dramatic consequences. The man who led the opposition was Si Muhammad n-Si 'Abd al-Krim al-Khatabi or, as he is more commonly known, Abdel Krim (which is actually his father's name).

Abdel Krim was the son of a *qadi* (a Judge of Islamic law) of the Aith Waryagher. His father had developed relationships with the mining companies seeking to exploit the iron deposits in the Rif and he had managed to obtain a good education for his son. A better education was obtained for his second son, M'hommad, who became the first Rifi to study at University, undertaking a course in Madrid with the object of becoming a mining engineer.

Abdel Krim learned Spanish and obtained work in the Spanish settlements, holding a number of positions, through promotion, at the Central Office of Native Affairs. After studying law he ultimately became Chief Qadi of the Melilla zone in 1914. He also became editor of the Arabic supplement to *El Telegrama del Rif*. In 1915 he is reported to have made political announcements in *El Telegrama del Rif*, in which he proposed that Spain should not seek to extend her influence beyond the Presidios and that he would organize a government of the Rif to be treated on an equal footing with Spain.

For these, and similar claims, he was imprisoned. An attempted escape, in which he broke his leg, did not stop him from eventually being reinstated in the Office of Native Affairs in 1917. At the end of World War I he was alarmed at the repatriation, to French territory, of tribesmen who had been critical of the French during the War. Fearing for his own safety, due to his criti-

cism of the Spanish, he returned to his homelands. Once there, he convinced his father to recall his brother from his studies in Madrid.

During the next two years Abdel Krim and his brother worked amongst the tribes to establish a united front against the Spanish. Following his father's death in 1920, Abdel Krim became the leading figure of his tribe. While Abdel Krim was an able politician, leader and policy maker, it was his brother M'hommad who became the charismatic military leader who established the army of the Rif. Working with the local tribes, and drawing on his experience and knowledge of the Spanish, M'hommad created an armed force that adopted a uniform, drilled regularly and fought to a planned strategy.

The Spanish were well aware of the discontent amongst the native population and the efforts of the Aith Waryagher to organize resistance against them. As well as continuing to assert their authority over the population, the Spanish attempted to divert the feelings aroused in the local tribes against the French in southern Morocco. In 1921 the Spanish, through the representations of a Spaniard named Señor Echevarieta, attempted to take possession of strategic points around Alhucemas Bay by offering to pay Abdel Krim 20 million pesetas. As well as offering money, the Spanish proposed to supply modern armaments for the native population to prosecute a military campaign against the French. This approach was rejected, as Abdel Krim saw the Spanish as the greater enemy of the Rif and he refused to be drawn into a conflict with the French.

After suffering the domination of the Spanish for many years, due to



insufficient strength to oppose them, Abdel Krim decided that by May 1921 he had developed enough power to test the Spanish. The chosen point to attack the Spanish was the strategic post of Dar Abara (or Abaran) in Tensamane country. With three hundred warriors, Abdel Krim attacked the fortified Spanish position and after a tough battle the Spanish were defeated. The Spanish lost three to four hundred men, while the Rifians lost only eight or nine men. Although the victory was in itself stunning, the weapons, munitions and supplies captured by Abdel Krim allowed the Rifi to seriously consider widening their campaign.

With the victory at Dar Abara, support immediately came to Abdel Krim from the surrounding tribes, who rallied to the cause. However, Abdel Krim proved to be a masterful tactician and stopped his troops from immediately pursuing further battles. He insisted that they consolidate and defend their position. They achieved this by fortifying a line from Sidi-Driss on the coast to the inland railhead at Tizi-Aza.

General Sylvestre, who was in charge of the Spanish forces in and around Melilla, then asked Abdel Krim to return the bodies of the Spanish soldiers killed at the battle of Dar Abara, but Abdel Krim refused. In order to reestablish his authority and in an effort to weaken the defences of the natives, General Sylvestre attacked Sidi-Bouyane near Anoual. However, the Spanish were once again defeated, losing three hundred and fourteen men, while the local tribes lost only seventeen men.

The Spanish then consolidated their forces at Ygueriben, just south of Anoual. However, Abdel Krim learned that the Spanish were running short of supplies and decided to cut their communications with Tizi Aza, the railhead used to supply the Spanish forces. The successful manoeuvre forced General Sylvestre to commit his

entire 10,000 men, cavalry and artillery to an immediate attack. Abdel Krim prepared his 1,000 trained warriors in the first line of attack, with reserves of men from the surrounding country in the second line.

The ensuing battle lasted from 21 to 26 July.

By the morning of 26 July the defeat of the Spanish was apparent. Having already lost Ygueriben during the preceding days, General Sylvestre gave the order to evacuate Anoual and all other positions in the region. During the withdrawal to Melilla, the retreating forces panicked and fell into disarray. Throughout the region the Spanish were pursued and cut down by natives who revenged years of repression and domination. Estimates of the Spanish dead from the battles in and around Anoual, and in the flight to the coast, range from fifteen to nineteen thousand men. General Sylvestre was amongst the dead.

In the years following the defeat of the Spanish at Anoual, many Europeans, particularly the French, believed that the victories won by the Rifi were due to their forces being led by skilled Europeans, possibly Germans. When the revolt was over, the same Europeans were surprised to discover that while some Europeans were fighting with the Rifi, the army was led by the Rifi and Jibala tribesmen. Abdel Krim himself was in command at the battles of Dar Abara and Anoual.

After their victories over the Spanish, the Rifi took control of the Jibala with the assistance of the local tribesmen of that area. Apart from Tangier, which was an international enclave, and the Spanish Presidios, Abdel Krim and his warriors held all of the Spanish Zone. The main attempt by Spain to reestablish her position in the areas lost to the Rifi, was in recapturing Sheshuan in the Jibala region. Although initially successful, the Spanish were later driven out, resulting in another

terrible and costly defeat of the Spanish army. The Rifi remained dominant against the Spanish and it was not until the tribesmen of the Rif turned their attention to the French-controlled areas of their allied tribes that fortune turned against them.

Ultimately, France and Spain aligned their forces and, attacking on two fronts, brought about the defeat of the Rifi. Although the Jibala held out for a while longer, it too finally succumbed to the united forces of the French and Spanish. Following his surrender to the French in May 1926, Abdel Krim and his close associates were exiled to the island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean. In 1947 he was granted permission to live in France but, while en route to France, he was offered asylum in Egypt, which he accepted. After Morocco achieved its independence Muhammad V asked Abdel Krim to return to Morocco. The former leader of the Rif refused to do so while French troops remained in the country. He died in Cairo in February 1963.

The defeat of the Rifi occurred in 1926, but for roughly five years the Rifi controlled the Spanish Zone. During this period Abdel Krim boasted to his numerous visitors that they could walk with safety from the East to the West, as his forces controlled the entire region. It was no empty boast.

Abdel Krim was declared the Emir of the Rif on 1 February 1922, although a declaration of independence had been made in 1921. A government was established, with ministers of state, and Ajdir was declared the capital of the Rif Republic. Within the Rif the authority of Abdel Krim brought a number of changes which altered aspects of local culture forever. For example, he outlawed blood feuds, which had debilitated the region for years. Justice was now meted out by the authority of the Government. His reforms of the justice system included the implementation of



Shari'a law and the abandoning of a peculiarly Berber form of justice that included the use of 'collective oaths'. Tribal allegiances were also re-formed, so that allegiances were made directly to the Government.

In an effort to establish a government that would be recognized internationally, Abdel Krim sent emissaries to France and Britain. In 1922 Abdel Krim visited London with several associates. His objective was to enter into talks with Mr. Austen Chamberlain, the British Foreign Secretary, but he was not received by Mr. Chamberlain or by any members of the British Government. While the Rifians found many people sympathetic to their cause in London, the visit did not achieve the diplomatic assistance they were seeking.

In March 1923 Abdel Krim's brother, Si M'hammed, and an associate by the name of Ben Hadj Hitmi visited Paris in an effort to gain French support for their cause. Under assumed names they travelled from Algeria and arrived in Paris. Staying at the Hotel Terminus, near the train station Saint-Lazare, they sought an interview with M. Poincaré, but received no audience. Although they spoke with many people who supported their struggle, the only member of the French Government who gave them an audience was M. Painlevé. Although the audience with M. Painlevé elicited a sympathetic response, the visit to Paris was a failure.

Abdel Krim received many visitors to the Rif, including sympathizers, supporters and journalists. A number of the visitors represented mining interests, who were interested in exploiting the iron deposits of the region. However, the support of these companies for the Rif Republic was tentative, as they found it difficult to commit themselves to the Rifi cause when international law still recognized Spain's rights in the region. Those opposed to the Rifi Republic claimed that Abdel Krim was making a personal

fortune from the mining companies. However, after the war Abdel Krim declared that he had taken no personal interest in negotiations for mineral rights and that any negotiations with the mining companies had been undertaken with the various tribes in possession of the land.

Apart from the mining companies, there were two other categories of supporters. There were the French communists and socialists, who opposed their own government's activities in Morocco and private British interests who supported the Rifi for idealistic and commercial reasons. It was the interests of this last group that brought about the preparation of the bank notes that are associated with the Rifi.

One of the men closely associated with the Rif Revolt in its early years was Captain Charles Alfred Paroy Gardiner, sometimes known as 'Percy' Gardiner. Little is known of Captain Gardiner before his involvement with Abdel Krim and the Rifi tribesmen. He had been Managing Director of the 'Gardiner Shipbuilding and Engineering Company of Poole', which had failed around 1921 due to insufficient finance. (Prior to its failure, Gardiner had sought a line of credit from the British Government, but the Ministry of Finance had rejected the request.)

Gardiner first comes to notice in the drama of the Rif revolt in March 1923. At that time the Spanish embassy in London wrote to the British authorities, noting that 'the brother of the Riffi rebel chief, Abdel-Krim, has arrived in Paris, where he poses as an Algerian'. Accompanying Abdel Krim's brother M'hommad was 'a Mr. Percy Gardiner'. The communique from the Spanish embassy requested details about Captain Gardiner, whom they suspected was smuggling arms to the Rif.

That Gardiner was involved in smuggling arms to the Rif is certain. His activities, suspected by both the Spanish and British, were confirmed by Abdel Krim after the war.

Gardiner was also known by the British authorities to have purchased arms for Greece some time before his focus shifted to northern Morocco. During his involvement with the Rif Revolt, Gardiner was reported to be associated with a 'Herr Hacklander' who was connected to the German mining company Mannesmann. Hacklander in turn was a known arms dealer, having supplied arms for Serbian forces fighting against the Bulgarians.

How Gardiner made contact with Abdel Krim is unknown, although Gardiner's meeting with Si M'hammed in Paris is his first known contact with the Rifi. Si M'hammed later reported that, while in Paris, Gardiner concluded a deal to supply weapons at a price that Si M'hammed considered rather high. However, Gardiner appears to have established a relationship that was beneficial to both parties, with Gardiner becoming a confidant of Abdel Krim.

In May 1923 Gardiner successfully acquired concessions from the Rifis on behalf of a syndicate, of which he was a co-director, in consideration of a loan to the Rifi. The negotiations appear to have been completed with Si M'hammed during his sojourn in Paris, as the Riffian signatory to the contract for the concessions was the 'Hereditary Vice-President of the Riffian Republic'. According to a later report in the *New York Times*, for £300,000 Gardiner acquired 'the rights to establish a bank of emission at Adjdjir, all rights for the development of the oil, coal, gold, silver and copper resources of the country, besides concessions with regard to telegraph, postal, railroad and seaport exploitations'. He also secured the rights for 'organizing schools, technical colleges, theatres, moving-picture palaces, operas and tramway and omnibus lines'. Considering there were no trams in the Spanish Zone and no opera houses, the concessions ring a little hollow. Perhaps the scope of the concessions indicate the ambitions of



the Rifi or, alternatively, the pretensions of Gardiner.

The report in the *New York Times* was a little short of the mark when it came to the amount of the loan tendered for the concessions, although the description of the concessions appears to be accurately reported. At the end of May 1923 Captain Gardiner approached the British Embassy in Paris, seeking recognition and support for his acquisition of the concessions. This appeal was followed by an approach to the British Government by Lord Teynham, who was Gardiner's partner and co-director in the syndicate undertaking the enterprise. In a letter to the Government, dated 29 May 1923, Lord Teynham states that the concessions were granted 'in consideration of a loan of £1,000,000'. He also sought support for the enterprise, stating:

'I should be glad to be informed whether His Majesty's Government would be prepared to recognize the validity of these Concessions, or at any rate see its way to according its acquiescence in the agreement being proceeded with.'

The reply to Lord Teynham gave him no succor, stating that he undertakes his enterprise entirely at his own risk. A subsequent appeal by Captain Gardiner to the Foreign Office received the same reply.

In early August 1923 Captain Gardiner was representing himself as 'Agent General for the Riff Government'. By late August he had adopted the title 'Minister Plenipotentiary for the Government of the Riff' and his letterhead used in correspondence read 'The Agent-General for the Government of the Riff (Morocco)'. In his new-found capacity he invited the British Government to establish a 'Diplomatic and Consular service' at Ajdir, the capital of the Rif. Similar invitations were sent to numerous governments of the world, but it would seem that all invitations were treated with the same disregard.

Throughout late 1923 Gardiner

continued to press for recognition of the Republic of the Rif, but his efforts were constantly rebuffed. In 1924 the Spanish authorities began a series of complaints to the British, concerning the activities of Gardiner in the Rif, Tangier and Gibraltar. The Spanish claimed that a motor yacht owned by Captain Gardiner, named 'Sylvia', had smuggled 600 tons of contraband from Gibraltar to the Rif and requested that the British take action against Gardiner. (Gardiner was later reported to have acquired a steam trawler named 'Star of the Orient' in July 1924 and smuggled arms from Liege to the Rif.) The British Government treated the Spanish request with some disdain. Firstly, they questioned how 600 tons of contraband could be shipped on a yacht of 47 tons. (The '600 tons' was later admitted to being a 'typing error' by the Spanish.) Secondly, they questioned how the boat could have travelled to the Rif when Spain claimed to control the seas around northern Morocco. The second point was accompanied by private reports within the British Government which asserted that the Spanish could not control the waters they claimed to police. The British also received intelligence that Spanish soldiers and their wives were selling arms and ammunition to the rebels and that a Spanish millionaire, Don Juan March, was providing arms to the Rifi, but against whom the Spanish authorities took no action. It is apparent that while the British did not support Captain Gardiner or the rebels, they had little time for the Spanish due to that government's inefficiencies.

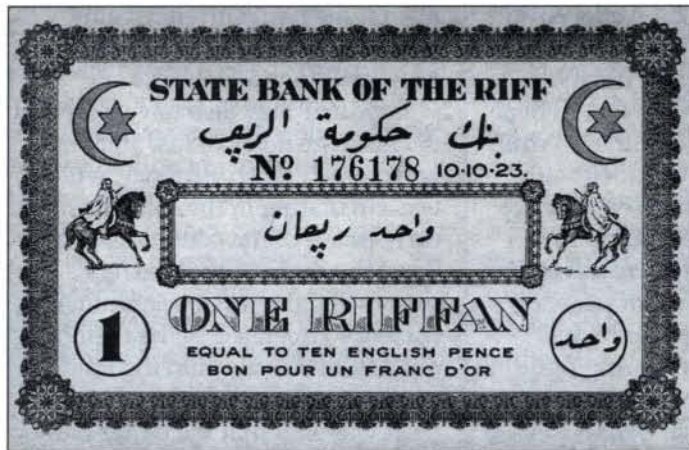
While Captain Gardiner and Lord Teynham continued to break no British laws (as none of the smuggled arms and munitions left from a British port), there was nothing the British could do to curb their activities. A report on the 'Activities of Captain Gardiner in the Riff', written in December 1924 by the British Foreign Office, describes Gardiner, Lord Teynham and their

associates as 'undesirable people' and while they may have caused some embarrassment to the British Government by their 'nefarious operations', they were left to their own devices and to suffer the consequences of their own actions. (These 'consequences' were regarded with some optimism by the British, as the Foreign Office report concludes: 'Obviously it is up to the Spaniards to catch him; but he need not fear much from that quarter.')

By the time the Foreign Office report was written, Gardiner seems to have ceased his activities in northern Morocco. The concessions granted to Gardiner in June 1923 may have been wide and far-reaching, but they also had to be paid for. It appears that Gardiner and Lord Teynham could not finance their enterprise, despite efforts in approaching several financiers. By July 1924 the relationship between Gardiner and the Rifi had all but ended. The *New York Times* reported on 20 July 1924 that the Rifi had lodged papers in French courts suing Gardiner for breach of contract. Gardiner had evidently failed to lodge the first installment of £10,000 with the Rifi and, seeing little other option, they had commenced legal proceedings against the Englishman.

It is probable that the legal proceedings went no further. However, by this time the association between Gardiner and Hacklander had ended, leaving Hacklander owed a sum of money by Abdel Krim, while Gardiner disappeared from the scene. In 1926 Hacklander was identified as a sponsor of another Englishman, Captain Robert Gordon-Canning. Gordon-Canning had supported the Rifi by organizing an advocate group in Britain and by making numerous visits to the Rif. At various stages he attempted to represent Abdel Krim in France, for the purpose of negotiating independence for the Rif. (It is probable that Gordon-Canning was the direct successor to Captain Gardiner, in the





This 1-Riffan note (No. R1 in the SCWPM) was prepared for the 'State Bank of the Rif' by Captain Charles Gardiner.



This 5-Riffans note (No. R2 in the SCWPM), along with its lower-denomination counterpart, is one of the few tangible reminders of the Rif Revolt.

role of official representative of the Government of the Rif in Great Britain, following the latter's fall from grace.)

It also appears that, although the agreement with Captain Gardiner failed, the quest to obtain concessions in the Rif continued for many years. One of the strongest competitors for the concessions was Señor Echevarieta, who had previously negotiated with Abdel Krim on behalf of the Spanish Government and who represented Spanish interests in negotiations for the concessions. Other approaches for concessions in the Rif came from French interests. However, it seems that all further attempts to acquire concessions by various parties came to nothing.

In recollecting the various foreigners who assisted him in his endeavors to establish the Rif Republic, Abdel Krim speaks favorably of Gordon-Canning and Hacklander. He believed that each of these gentlemen had no ulterior motives to their support of his cause, although evidence may occasionally suggest otherwise. Of Gardiner, he recalled only that the Englishman offered him the 'world' in consideration for a foreign loan, as well as all manner of modern armaments and munitions for him to prosecute the war. Whether Abdel Krim ever believed that Gardiner was going to

deliver the 'world' he offered through the purchase of the concessions is difficult to know, as this subject seems to be passed over in his *Mémoires*.

In negotiating the concessions from the Rif in 1923, Gardiner and his syndicate's principal aim was probably to obtain mineral concessions in the Rif. However, they evidently saw an opportunity to raise money in the first instance by establishing a central bank in the Rif. To this end, they prepared a bank note issue. Within the British Public Record Office there is reference, in one of the indices to the Foreign Office political correspondence, to a document titled: '1923 Attempts of Capt CAP Gardiner to place orders in the UK for the manufacture of Riff bank notes: HMG's attitude: evidence of Riff funds at disposal'. Unfortunately the document has not survived. However, this reference suggests that Gardiner approached British security printers with the aim of securing the production of the bank notes. If he did approach the numerous security printers in Great Britain, his approaches were evidently unsuccessful, as the notes finally produced are certainly not the work of a security printer.

The two uniface bank notes illustrated here are the only two denominations known to have been prepared by Gardiner for issue in the

Rif. (These notes are listed in the *Standard Catalog of World Paper Money* under 'Morocco' as Nos. R1 and R2.) The 'One Riffan' note is printed in pale green on white paper and the 'Five Riffans' is printed in red. The issuing authority of the 'State Bank of the Rif' appears across the top of the notes in English and Arabic. At the bottom of the 1-Riffan note appear the phrases 'Equal to Ten English Pence' and 'Bon pour un Franc d'Or' (equal to one gold franc. These values are increased accordingly for the 5-Riffan note.) It is curious that these values are attested on the note. Perhaps the French value can be explained by an expectation of trade with French Morocco and Algeria. The use of the English phrase is more obscure. There is no reason why the Rif would be expected to trade with the English, unless it was anticipated that the concessions bought by Gardiner might create trade.

That the notes are printed with English, French and Arabic texts shows a lack of understanding by Gardiner and his syndicate of the people with whom they were dealing. English was a completely foreign language in the Rif and the use of French was marginal. The failure to attest a Spanish equivalent is surprising. It would appear sensible to apprise the prospective



users of the notes the value of the 'Riffan' in Spanish currency, for the purpose of exchange, as Spanish currency was then in circulation. The use of Spanish text would also have seemed appropriate, as it was a language that many in the Rif understood. However, although many Rifians would have been familiar with Spanish and Arabic (which does appear on the notes), most would have spoken only their native Berber dialects.

The design of the bank notes includes a crescent moon and star, which is repeated twice. This device was used on the flag of the 'Republic of the Rif', where the crescent moon and star appeared within a white diamond placed in the centre of a red background. The use of a star similar to the Star of David is unusual in the representation of the Islamic symbol of the crescent moon and star, and it has been reported that the star was drawn by Abdel Krim when he created the flag. The significance of the date '10.10.23', which appears on the bank notes, is unknown. As the date is roughly five months after Gardiner negotiated the concessions, it is likely that this is the date on which he expected to introduce the notes into circulation. It is also possible the date has no relevance to any event.

The bank notes prepared by Gardiner seem never to have been placed into circulation, although they were delivered to the Rif. The use of the bank notes within the Rif is the most difficult aspect of the notes to determine. David Woolman writes in *Rebels in the Rif*:

'The Rifian leader, in discussing the matter with Gordon-Canning, said he had actually received a bundle of paper franc notes from Gardiner during World War I, but that the notes turned out to be non-negotiable.'

This description of events, with respect to 'World War I' and 'paper franc notes', does not ring true if read literally, but there may be a simple explanation of the comment.

There is no evidence of Abdel Krim being active during World War I and, even if he was, certainly not in the capacity of a leader who would deal with a man such as Gardiner. (While his father definitely colluded with the Germans during the War, Abdel Krim spent the whole period of World War I in Melilla. However, it is probable that Abdel Krim knew of, and possibly participated in, his father's collusion.) If, during the discussion with Gordon-Canning, reference was made to the Rif Revolt as 'the War', it is possible that later writers interpreted 'the War' as World War I rather than the Rif Revolt. The reference to 'paper franc notes' is probably in reference to Gardiner's notes, but the use of 'franc' to identify the notes (rather than 'Riffans') may have been due to the generic use of the word 'franc' to identify currency, rather than specifically identifying currency denominated in 'Francs'. Woolman's comment on the inability of Abdel Krim to negotiate Gardiner's notes indicates that Abdel Krim was either naïve in matters of currency, and what Gardiner intended to do with the notes, or that he was misled by Gardiner.

Rupert Furneaux, in *Abdel Krim, Emir of the Rif*, states:

'Gard[i]ner seems to have believed that he was dealing with a very primitive people, for he offered to sell Abdel Krim a machine for printing bank notes, in exchange for all the Rifi's hard currency.'

This comment on the deal between Gardiner and the Rifi probably reflects the proposed arrangement for establishing the 'State Bank of the Rif'. It is not known how Gardiner expected to back his issue of notes by the 'State Bank', but an obvious method would have been for the notes to be exchanged for the Spanish currency then circulating in the Rif. Gardiner would then have been able to back his 'Riffans' by Spanish money, or by Pounds Sterling if he converted the Spanish currency. The backing would then

rely on the hard currency being available if the notes were ever presented for payment.

Gardiner may also have expected to exchange notes of his 'State Bank' with some French currency, which was circulating in the Rif. During an early phase of the conflict, the Spanish accused the French of supporting the Rifi, because French currency circulated in the region. In reply to this accusation the French stated:

'It was said that the paper money issued by the Chamber of Commerce in Oran [in western Algeria] was being circulated in abnormal quantities in the Riff and it was deduced that the French authorities were subsidizing the tribes fighting Spain. This is simple calumny. Ever since the installation of the French at Oran, Riffians have been coming to work in large numbers in the western part of Algeria. Saving part of their pay, they return to the Riffian country with Oran paper money.' *New York Times* 12 August 1923.

Whether Gardiner would have exchanged the Spanish and French currency to use as backing for his own bank notes, or simply taken the hard currency for his own purposes, is debatable. Furneaux's comment (above) suggests that the Rifi saw through his proposal and would not agree to exchange their Spanish and French currency when the notes were delivered.

However, it is to be wondered whether Gardiner had any idea of the amount of currency circulating in the Rif. Vincent Sheean, in analyzing the manner in which the Rifi were financing their struggle, states (in *An American Among the Riffi*):

'The money cannot come from the Rif, because it is not there. There is so little Spanish money in circulation in that scantily populated country that even confiscatory taxes would not supply enough to maintain the Riffi Army and Government.'

There certainly was Spanish money in circulation and Sheean later received a parting gift of 'five



hundred pesetas in crisp notes of the Bank of Spain' from the Rifi, as he had earlier been robbed. The Rifi had been given a huge amount of money as a ransom payment for the soldiers captured following the rout at Anoual, but it is understood that most of this money had been spent on weapons to arm the Rifi. Gardiner, as a supplier of some weapons and therefore a probable recipient of some of this money, may have believed that there was more money to exploit than was actually in circulation or available to Abdel Krim.

On the other hand, in his *Mémoires*, Abdel Krim claims that he had no problem financing the war and balancing his budget. He claims to have raised sufficient revenue through direct taxes of the tribes in the Rif, through penalties imposed on tribes that rose against him, and through penalties collected from common crimes. To these sources of revenue were added the ransom payments for Spanish prisoners. So, perhaps there was sufficient cash available to make Gardiner's project worth while!

The fate of the bundles of 'Riffans' delivered to the Rif is unknown. While some may have been destroyed, a number of notes were rescued by players in the drama. Examples of the paper notes are known to have been taken as souvenirs by Spanish military personnel following the surrender of the Rifi. David Hart, in *The Aith Waryagher of the Moroccan Rif*, notes that:

'Abd al-Krim had paper money printed, presumably in England, as I have seen a photograph of a "Five Riffan Note" in English and Arabic, amongst the personal archives of Col. Emilio Blanco. It was supposedly worth 50 English pence or 5 gold French francs at the time. However, the extent to which this money was actually in circulation seems questionable, for all my informants spoke solely in terms of duros and pesetas.'

In the end, the bank notes of the

'State Bank of the Riff' cannot be regarded as an issue of currency by the Republic of the Rif, and can only be associated with Abdel Krim and his government through the grant of the ill-fated concessions. A fine memento of the Rif Revolt, the notes are more a legacy of the ambition of Captain Charles Gardiner and his syndicate, than the ill-fated quest for self-determination by the people of the Rif.

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## 2002 Paper Money Shows

**November 2-3, 2002**

### Sydney Bank Note Convention

Artarmon Motor Inn

Sydney, Australia

Contact: Tony James

wk: 61 2 9235 0888

fax: 61 2 9235 0588

email: info@tonyjamesnoteworld.biz

**November 8-10, 2002**

### Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention

Baltimore, Maryland USA

**November 17, 2002**

### London Paper Money Fair

London, United Kingdom

**November 21-24, 2002**

### National and World Paper Money Convention — PCDA

St Louis, MO USA

**November 29**

### Westchester Paper Money Exposition

Westchester County Center  
White Plains, NY

**December 29, 2002**

### SCDAA Stamp, Coin, Banknote & Phonecard Fair

Petersham (Sydney), Australia

**Jan 9-12, 2003**

### FUN Florida

### United Numismatists

Orlando, Florida

**February, 20-23, 2003**

### CPMX 9

Chicago, IL

**February 28 - March 2, 2003**

### MPC Fest IV

Port Clinton, OH

**March 21-23, 2003**

### ANA

Charlotte, NC



# The Fragility of Modern Technology

by Fred Schwan, I.B.N.S. #LM-06

I believe that *The I.B.N.S. Journal* columnists drive Editor Feller a bit crazy. He does not deserve the treatment that we (well, at least I) give him. I have described before how he reminds us (me). He starts with a few polite e-mails. Then he makes a few polite telephone calls, finally he makes phone calls in desperation. Each communiqué must be deflected with a stronger shield.

The first line of defense is to inquire about the status of the other columns. Steve is amazingly frank in this regard. He admits that others are also late. Those are the magic words! They allow further procrastination. The final line of defense is the answering machine. Steve now knows when to call and what to say to get me to pick up the phone even though he was greeted by the recorded message.

This time I pushed the envelope farther than I ever have (I am not sure how far others have pushed it). I really thought that he had given up on me. Even after multiple last ditch pleas, I was not able to fight off the other distractions.

You might be interested in two of these. The first little story will be disclosing a secret to Joe Boling.

People are starting to inquire about a second edition of *World War II Remembered*. We have lots of new material for inclusion, but I have been hesitant. I had a deep, dark secret.

I was very proud of the electronic system that we used in 1995 to create that book. In addition to the laid out text (about 100 files), we had over 4,000 illustrations. It required two gigabytes of storage.

That is small by 2002 standards, but was huge in 1995. In fact, I have reported many times that the book turned into a file management exercise.

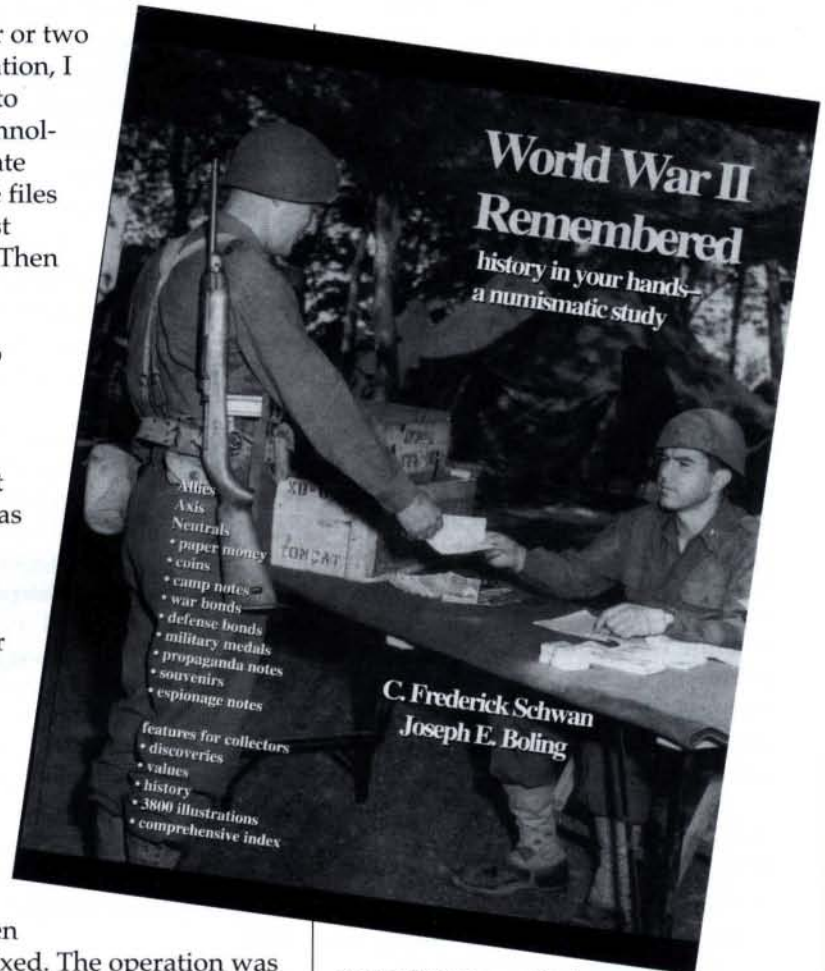
For a year or two after publication, I was careful to upgrade technology and create copies of the files in the newest formats etc. Then I got lazy, technology continued to change, old equipment failed.

The secret was that I was not certain that I could produce the files used for the first edition, thereby jeopardizing the second. I spent \$1000 to have a broken hard drive fixed. The operation was a success, but the files were not even on the darn thing.

Last night after receiving Steve's last (he said) call, I found three cartridges marked as having the *Remembered* files! I was of course delighted. Steve's demands went out the window while I worked on the cartridges.

Of course they are a few generations old. I found the computer that had been used to create them. It was in the garage. You techies can put things in perspective when I tell you that it has a 33mh processor (yes, thirty-three). The machine ran just fine.

I own two of the devices used to create the valuable cartridges. The



THE BOOK in question!

company first came out with a one gigabyte version, then two gigs. I bought both. The trouble was that last night I could not find either! I searched most of the night. I checked the website of the manufacturer and learned that no current solution is available. Frankly, to my surprise I found the larger device! It was in a box, under some papers, about six inches from my feet! I had not seen it in years.

I was able to hook it to the old computer without difficulty and found that the files are there and in seemingly in good shape! I was indeed excited.

Then I had to figure out how to



## Book Announcement

### 100 Copies Only

### NLG Award Winning Book with signed engravings *The Engraver's Line* by Gene Hessler,

get them from the 33mh machine to the one gigahertz dual processor machine with coffee maker on the side (ok, so I exaggerate). There is no direct way (SCSI vs USB if you really want to know). Technology is in the way.

When I bought the new coffee maker I had found a little device that fought the SCSI/USB battle. It worked well enough then and I found it without too much problem, but the connectors just were not right.

That is when I went to bed. This morning I found an old piece of hardware with the appropriate connectors. By putting it in the middle of the chain I should be able to simply copy the files to the new machine.

That is when Steve called. I used every excuse. I told him the above story. He told me to tell that story for the column. See, it is a good idea to wait!

In spite of my promise, I worked another hour on the recalcitrant connectors before starting this for Steve. I failed with the computer. As soon as I finish this, I am going to visit the computer shops in a six county area.

Since the files are on the cartridges, the problem will be solved. The added motivation is that I am going to visit Joe this coming weekend in Seattle. I would love to have the entire book on my laptop coffee maker so that we can enter some of his discoveries while I am there. I expect that we will also discuss scheduling for the project and might be able to make an announcement about that soon.

Therefore, it is time to make the first plea to you to send us new material for *WWII Remembered 2*. We want to hear from you. Contact me at

fredschwan@papermoneyworld.net  
and Joe at JoeBoling@aol.com.

The author has prepared 100 numbered copies of *The Engraver's Line*; about 50 copies remain. This original version of the NLG award-winning book, and a supplement, includes five engraved insertions, four signed by the engravers.

The engravers represented differ from those who signed their work in the sold-out special edition when this book was first published.

One of the signatures, on a sheet with postage stamps that he engraved, is that of Edward R. Felver, the engraver of *The Bouquet and the B52A Bomber* (\$20 MPC backs, Series 661 and 681).

In addition, those who purchase any edition, regular or special, will receive an additional sheet of engravings created at American Bank Note Company. These will be mailed separately in a mailing tube to U.S. addresses only.

As line engraving is being replaced by mechanical and computer-imaging methods, *The Engraver's Line* pays homage to artists from an era that has all but disappeared. This encyclopedia of paper money and postage stamp art and biographies was first released in 1993, including a special edition with signed engravings. Recently, different engravers suggested that the author prepare a second special edition. The result is 100 copies of the original edition with signed engravings for those who appreciate the art of security engraving.

*The Engraver's Line*, with 444 pages and over 500 illustrations, is the first major composite listing of designers and engravers of bank notes and postage stamps.

Some of the most beautiful bank notes were designed and engraved by major American artists like F.O.C.

Darley, Asher B. Durand, Walter Shirlaw and Kenyon Cox. However, their paper money art is seldom mentioned in art studies even though these designs were seen and handled by more people than those who saw the work of these artists in art galleries and museums.

What some have said about *The Engraver's Line*:

(*The Engraver's Line*) will become a standard reference like Mr. Hessler's other works.

Barbara Mueller,  
*The Essay Proof Journal*.

It has been a valuable addition to our reference collection because it is unique. It includes biographies of artists, illustrators, engravers and printers that are not found in any other reference source.

S. Frechette, Art Division  
of the St. Louis Public Library

This comprehensive work on engraving is essential for anyone studying the history of engraving... Numerous illustrations make clear the painstaking detail involved in each engraving. I found the book to be comprehensive and well-researched.

A.J. Horton,  
Manager Art and Music Dept.,  
Cincinnati Public Library

Special edition with engravings \$145; regular edition \$85. For each book, add \$5 for postage and insurance. Send check or money order to: Gene Hessler, PO Box 31144, Cincinnati, OH 45231. For a copy of the supplement only, send \$5.

Outside the U.S. add \$15 (check on U.S. bank or instrument payable in U.S. funds) for postage and registration.

*Requests for a specific numbered copy will be honored, if possible, but cannot be guaranteed. Specify if you wish the book to be signed by the author and to whom.*



*Rachel Notes***A Brief Lesson in Educators***by Rachel Feller*

The first time that I met Killian, I couldn't see anything that stood out as different about him. He was sitting in the back of the van, playing quietly with a green plush frog that he had gotten as a gift. His feet were dangling out of his car seat (he was five at the time), and he was acting like any shy youngster would act.

As we drove along, I was speaking with Killian's mother, Prerna. We were talking a bit about Killian, a bit about the family, a bit about me...getting to know one another. At a pause in the conversation, I said, "It's strange that it is snowing in the spring, isn't it?" (Not atypical of Wisconsin's loose definition of seasons, it was late April and there was still snow falling.) When I said this, I heard softly from behind me, "That was alliteration." I turned and asked, "What did you say?" Killian explained, "Alliteration. Strange, snowing, and spring all begin with the letter s." I turned back around to face the snow outside. Suddenly snow in late April seemed a lot more commonplace, while a five year old sat behind me and threw out literary devices between the hops of his toy frog.

From that April of my freshman year onwards, I have been only more and more impressed with Killian. I was recruited by my university to serve sort of as a mentor to Killian. He was noticed at school for his brightness, and I was supposed to make sure he was being challenged and that his eagerness to learn didn't diminish. Instead, I think I have been getting more out of my friendship with Killian and his family. I get to spend my time playing with him and with his four year old sister

Anastasia (Anna). Prerna feeds me fantastic Indian food. James, Killian's father, has even helped me with car problems. The whole family is always supportive and wonderful and warm—all of this in exchange for having fun! It is an incredible position.

Killian has an enthusiasm for learning that I can only wish to emulate. When there is a subject he is interested in, Killian will read about it in the car, during dinner, during a pause in conversation. If I could have one ounce of his passion, I think my college career would be a lot easier.

Next Fall, Anna will get to begin kindergarten. Anna is far less shy than Killian. She makes friends easily. Anna is also a lot more sneaky than Killian. While Killian will follow every rule he has ever heard, Anna will be secretly climbing up on the counter behind him, grabbing the sweet foods she is not supposed to be touching. She has an adorable grin to accompany every apology she makes for breaking rules, and somehow this makes them not seem so bad.

Killian and Anna, and really the whole family, have made my Lawrence University time a lot more pleasant. Prerna and James understand the value of education, and are always encouraging both Killian and Anna to always learn. As a thank you to them, I am writing this column about some of the paper money that recognizes the importance of teaching children. Although Killian always teaches me more than I teach him, I thought he might like to see how countries around the world value education so strongly.

I began thinking to do this article at the recent London Congress. I was helping (mostly just standing) at Pam West's table and I noticed a note I had seen many times, but had never known the origin of. It was the image of a small girl happily pointing to a passage in a book, while two other little children sat looking at a poem on a blackboard. I always liked this image of children not only in school, but seeming so happy to be in school. The way I admire Killian's passion for knowledge, this little girl in front looks so pleased to be learning, so genuinely happy to be reading.

This image comes on the £5 note from the Central Bank of Ireland, before the entrance of the euro. This was the third note to be introduced in the final series of Irish notes in 1994. It was designed by Robert Ballagh, who designed the entire series, which began in 1992 with the £20 note. The theme behind this series was the forming of modern Ireland.

In the forming of modern Ireland, it is certainly relevant to dedicate a bank note to Catherine McAuley, whose portrait is on the front of this bill, and whose life achievements bring about the ideas on both sides of the £5 note. Catherine McAuley was born in 1778, to parents who were devout followers of Catholicism. Although there was opposition to Catholicism from the English government, Catherine's father James had a strong determination to teach the poor children about his religion. In James, Catherine saw passion for religion, which grew only stronger after James' death, when Catherine was only six years old.





£5 note from the Central Bank of Ireland

This influence from her father led Catherine into a passion for religion and a passion for helping to teach others. Catherine founded a group called the Sisters of Mercy. This was a special society of women who volunteered part of their day to help with "various kinds of religious, educational, and social service of poor women and children." Catherine's interest in providing good education led her to try to educate herself better about how children could best be taught. She spent time in France learning about their schools, as well as visiting schools around Dublin and becoming an instructor at St. Mary's Poor School. In September, 1827, Catherine opened a new residence for homeless girls and women called of Our Lady of Mercy. The house had several large classrooms, dormitories for women to live in while they searched for jobs, and a chapel, which became open to the public in 1829 in order to better collect money for the women and children living in the house.

With special permission from Archbishop Murray, Catherine decided to form a new religious

order. She had needed special permission because Catherine did not want to have a cloistered order, as women's religious orders normally were. She wanted to continue to be in the public light, helping people in Dublin who needed help. Archbishop Murray agreed that the order need not be cloistered, and so the Sisters of Mercy were formed, with now Sister Catherine serving as the superior. Only three months after the Sisters of Mercy came to be, a cholera epidemic broke out in Dublin. Catherine and her sisters worked shifts from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for nearly an entire year, fighting to help the afflicted citizens of Dublin.

Sister Catherine's medical efforts are recognized on the face of the £5 note. Throughout her life, Sister Catherine worked to bring the most advanced healthcare to the poor people. She and the other sisters went to plague ridden towns where no one else would dare going, they would place their own lives at risk in order to provide a chance for these poor people to live. Behind her portrait on the face of the note is the image of the Mater Misericordiae

Hospital in Dublin. The image of Sister Catherine is based on a posthumous portrait, adapted by Robert Ballagh for the note. Both sides are done in brown and blue.

On the back of the note are the children in school who, as I said before, attracted me to this note. On the blackboard beside them is the first verse of a poem called "Mise Raifteri an File," as translated by Douglas Hyde. The poem, in English, reads:

I am Raftery the poet  
full of hope and love  
With eyes without light  
quiet without annoyance  
Going down my path  
with the light of my heart  
weak and tired  
to the end of my way.  
I am now  
with my face to the wall  
playing music  
to empty pockets.

On the back of the classroom is an interesting poster of a map of Europe, but without any national borders.

About thirty years after Sister Catherine's death, a new educator for the world was born. Maria



Montessori was born in Chiaravalle in Ancona, Italy. There are many parallel themes between these two women. Both had an interest in health, education, and in spreading their kindness.

Maria was the first female physician in Italy, graduating in 1896. It was because of her medical practice that Maria became interested in the education of children. Her time with young patients made her more and more intrigued with how the mind works. In 1901, she returned to school in order to study philosophy and psychology. By 1904, she had been made a professor of anthropology at the University of Rome.

Maria's big discovery was that children teach themselves. She noticed how children could learn through experience and their natural curiosity about their surroundings. Her interest in using this discovery to further children's education persuaded Maria to completely give up her job as a doctor and as a professor, and devote herself full time to helping children learn. She began with a group of sixty kids, all children of working parents in Rome. She founded a house called Casa dei Bambini. Maria watched to see how children learned without the help of adults, and from her observations she designed a new system of education, called the Montessori Method.

With Maria's success came opportunities to spread her method.

Maria was supported by such names as Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Edison, and Helen Keller. She came to the Panama-Pacific International Exhibition in San Francisco in 1915, where she gained world attention with her glass house schoolroom exhibit. She also began teacher training courses, and spreading her method at conventions and committees.

The world became enthusiastic about Maria's new method. Spain and England both began programs to train their teachers. Later, the Netherlands and India would also join.

In Italy, Maria was invited to become the government inspector of schools. This only lasted until 1934, when Maria's opposition to fascism meant her forced departure from her home. She stayed in Spain until the Spanish Civil War broke out. She then sought refuge in England, followed by the Netherlands. Eventually, she and her son Mario began living in India. They remained in India during the war, interned as enemy aliens, but allowed to continue the work of training teachers and continuing the education of children. The Montessori method continues to be used today, all around the world.

Before the switch to the euro, the final 1000 lire note honored Maria Montessori. On the face of the note are bright colors – the very center holds a thick strip with circles and stripes of all colors of the rainbow. On the right is a portrait of Maria,

done in brown.

The back of the note attracted me for similar reasons to the Irish £5 note. This design has two children, a little boy and a little girl, with books open. The little girl appears to be helping the little boy to study. The back also has many colors, but they are toned down by a dominance of blue and purple. Maria Montessori's image was also featured on the 200 lire coin in 1980.

Zalman Shazar is the only gentleman being discussed in this column. Along with Sister Catherine McAuley and Maria Montessori, Zalman Shazar is associated with helping the education of children. Zalman grew up in Russia, where he was born to a Hassidic family in 1889. A curious person, Zalman went to a yeshiva, but also read many secular books on his own, including books about political theories, such as socialism. From a very young age, Zalman had an interest in Zionism, and was arrested when he was only 18 for his writing and editing of revolutionary literature.

Zalman studied in Germany, where his focuses were history and German philosophy. Here he also continued his interest in journalism and in Jewish life. He remained in Germany until immigrating to Palestine in 1924.

When the first Knesset was formed, Zalman was chosen to serve as the Minister of Education and Culture. In this position, he began a system of compulsory education



Face and back of the 1000 lire note honoring Maria Montessori.





Face and back of the first series 200 New Sheqalim notes.

and the teaching of Hebrew. This focus on education was continued when Zalman became president of Israel. Not only was he ever supportive of the education of Israelis, but he continued to educate himself. Zalman was known for his writing and his reading in all areas. He was supportive of Israeli writers, and created a new fund that would help scholars and writers. Zalman also established a special project with the Institute of Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University. This project invited academics each month to discuss the issues in Jewish life. There were guest lectures and discussions, which Shazar would then summarize and publish. While president, Shazar also worked to bring renowned minds to visit Israel as his personal guest.

After Shazar's death in 1974, the Zalman Shazar Center was created as a publishing house for works on Jewish history.

There are two notes remembering Zalman Shazar in Israel, both the

first and second series 200 New Sheqalim notes. The first series note, from February 16, 1992, features a portrait of Zalman in red, orange, and yellow. Also on the face of the note is a candelabra made of DNA. This shows Zalman's scientific and religious curiosity, as well as his encouragement for the development of both areas in Israel. In the background is the poem Compulsory Education Law, by Natan Alterman.

On the back of the note (we notice quite a theme, here) is a little girl studying, her pencil out, writing. She is surrounded by Hebrew letters as she works diligently in her book.

The second series is vertical, and more intricately detailed. On the face, again, is a portrait of Zalman. In the background are elementary students studying in a classroom. Also in the background is part of the text for Zalman's speech to the Knesset on July 13, 1949, when the compulsory education law was passed. On the back of the note is an alley street in the spiritual city of

Safed. There is also a passage from Zalman's essay Tzofayih Tzefat (Thy Watchers, O Safed). To the right of this text is a listing of fifteen of Zalman's works. This note was issued on October 31, 1999.

All three of these individuals were chosen to represent their countries on bank notes. This is a reminder of the importance of education. Ireland, Italy, and Israel are saying something important by placing these images on their notes, and by complementing them with pictures of children in school. Education is such an important, essential aspect to life. Through the innocent little faces on these three bank notes, we can be reminded of the importance of teaching them well. All three of these figures understood why it was not only imperative that children be taught, but that their natural enthusiasm is encouraged and becomes the foundation for a life filled with that same naïve curiosity that makes us all so envious of children.



Face and back of the second series 200 New Sheqalim notes.



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